

Report from the President Kim Davies
February 21, 2009

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone on the Executive Council who is working for the betterment of the MSSA. There are some whose efforts are standing out who I will mention here and I ask forgiveness if anyone feels I have overlooked them.

President-Elect Ollie Christian appears to be off to a great start and the conference theme proves to be an interesting one. "Empowering Diversity Through World Systems" has generated interest in my department as I imagine it has across sociology departments in the mid south and beyond. I am looking forward to it and I will keep working to promote it.

Thanks to Tim Gongaware for his hard work on Forum – I was proud to distribute it around my office and send it off to a few others. I can not say how much I am impressed with Jamie Baird and how she is taking to her new role as secretary-treasurer. She had some big shoes to fill but she is impressively filling them. Jackie Eller was a key to my active involvement in the MSSA. For many years I have seen her work diligently and with dignity to the organization's betterment and she continues that this year with one of the most difficult positions we have: the nominations committee chair.

Lastly with regard to gratitude, I especially want to thank all of you who have been working with Tina Deshotels on membership. With her support, her urging, and her enthusiasm, many of us have been working diligently to promote the organization and the meeting in Lafayette. We have been sending letters and announcements in attempts to add new members and bring back members who have left us.

There is also one task that I need to report on. We are all aware that the Huntsville meeting was not as well attended as we would like for many reasons. Nevertheless, after the Huntsville meeting, I emailed all session organizers and asked them to report whether all presenters attended their session and how many audience members attended. As you can see on the attached sheet, the response rate to my inquiry was only 47%. Looking at the responses we do have, it is difficult to draw any conclusions. But if I were to be session organizer again and if I had enough rooms (as I would have had last year), I would forgo the 8 am sessions and start everything a little later maybe around 9:30 am. Then, I could have given a bit more to the caucus times at lunch as well. Program chairs in the future may want to consider this when possible.

Finally, while I was not fishing for compliments when I inquired about attendance at the sessions, I am happy to report that several organizers noted how much they enjoyed the meeting in Huntsville and that they would be in Lafayette. Importantly, some of these were new members.

Respectfully Submitted,

February 21, 2009
Lafayette, Louisiana

Re: Report of the Vice-President of the MSSA to the MSSA Executive Council

From: Larry D. Hall, Ph.D., Spring Hill College

The office of Vice-President has three responsibilities: (1) Chair all meetings of the Association and Executive Council in the absence of the President, (2) be responsible for the Graduate Student Paper Session(s) at the annual meetings, and (3) initially preside at the MSSA Annual Banquet.

1. Hopefully, the President will be present for the Executive Council and MSSA Annual Meetings.
2. I am working on lining up the following things for the Graduate Student Paper Session(s):
 - a. Identifying four or five judges for the competition.
 - i. I will solicit judges in an upcoming issue of Forum
 - ii. I will see if any Executive Council Members would like to volunteer to serve as judges for the contest
 - iii. I will contact MSSA members if I need additional judges
 - b. Soliciting Graduate Student Papers
 - a. I will ask David Witt, MSSA webmaster, to update the MSSA website with current information about the 2009 Graduate Student Competition (information about the 2008 competition is on the website at this time).
 - b. I will ask Tim Gongaware, editor of Forum, to run a request for Graduate Papers in the next issue
 - c. I will contact the Director of Graduate Studies at every Sociology Program that offers a graduate degree in Sociology in the 13 state MSSA region to request solicitations of papers from their graduate students
3. I will prepare a list of things to do for the 2009 MSSA Banquet:
 - a. Prepare a welcoming statement
 - b. Introduce members at the head table
 - c. Introduce all Past Presidents present at the 2009 meeting
 - d. Recognize all past MSSA officers by asking them to stand collectively
 - e. Introduce the new officers
 - f. Take care of Undergraduate and Graduate Awards
 - g. Introduce the President
 - h. Announce passing of the gavel from out-going President to in-coming President

Vice-President Elect Report

Undergraduate Paper Competition

1. The deadline for the Undergraduate Paper Competition has been set for June 1, 2009.
2. I'll make decisions on the committee composition once I get a better idea how many papers will need to be reviewed.

- a. My intention is to draw on those professors at universities which only offer an undergraduate degree with the hope of encouraging more participation from them.
3. An announcement of the competition has already gone out in the recent issue of *Forum*, will go out in the next issue and will go out to our listserve.
4. Any suggestions on other avenues for putting out the call are appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted February 21, 2009 by VP-Elect, Dr. Timothy B. Gongaware

**Winter Meeting
Mid-South Sociological Association
Current Status Report
February 21, 2009
Lafayette Hilton
Lafayette, Louisiana
Program Chair, Ollie Christian**

Paper Sessions: Thus far, there are approximately fifty-six paper sessions, seven panels, five roundtables and one AKD informational workshop on the Benefits of Membership. Session organizers represent the following institutions:

| | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Augusta State University | Rowan University |
| Baton Rouge Community College | Southeastern Louisiana University |
| Cameron University | Southern Illinois University |
| Cleveland Community College | Southern University @ Baton Rouge |
| Fayetteville State University | Texas Southern University |
| Fisk University | Tulane University |
| Francis Marian University | University of Alabama @ Birmingham |
| Grambling State University | University of Central Florida @ Cocoa |
| Jackson State University | University of Georgia |
| Jacksonville State University | University of Louisiana @ Lafayette |
| Louisiana State University | University of Louisiana @ Monroe |
| Loyola University @ New Orleans | University of Northern Iowa |
| McNeese State University | University of South Alabama |
| Middle Tennessee State University | University of South Florida |
| Missouri Southern State University | University of West Georgia |
| Morehead State University | University of Wisconsin @ La Crosse |
| Oklahoma State University | Xavier University of Louisiana |
| Rice University | |

Total = Thirty-five Colleges and Universities

Fundraising: Due to budget cuts, fundraising has been difficult. However, despite the economic difficulties, efforts are being made to increase MSSA funds. The following institutions have agreed to purchase advertisements:

Texas Southern University – Full Page @ \$300.00

Southern University (2 Programs) – Full Page @ \$600.00
Oklahoma State University – One-half Page @ \$150.00
Tulane University – One-half Page @ \$150.00
Western Kentucky University – Pending Summer Funding
University of Georgia – One-fourth Page @ \$ 75.00
Current Total = \$1,275.00
Fundraising Goal - \$10,000.00

Winter Meeting
Mid-South Sociological Association
Page 2

Additional MSSA Fundraising Strategies:

Platinum Donors - \$500.00
Gold Donors - \$400.00
Silver Donors - \$250.00
Bronze Donors - \$100.00
Comfort Zone Donors – Whatever you are comfortable with
***A \$300.00 contribution has been pledged**

All donations will be mailed to Jamie Baird @ Morehouse College.

Recruitment of Southern University Students to MSSA

- **Sociology 499 Students (Paid)**
Seteria Derozan, Latisha Morman, Ortadius White, Joseph Robins, Shena' Dumas, Willie Laws, Faith Ashton, Juanita McCray, Latocia Walker, Rachel Anderson, Shalida Washington and Quinton Tatum. **T = 12 students - \$240.00**
- **Sociology 220 Students (Paid)**
DeAngela Williams, Clarence Dartez, Leslie Jarreau, Jasman Benjamin and Jared Crawford. **T = 5 students - \$100.00**
- **Sociology 434 Students (Paid)**
Tawana Ingram, Gaysha Harris, Alton Price, Luke Albarez, Krystal Ross, Sheralyn Vessel, Kelekia Brooks, Carolin Hutchinson, Kelia Landor and Yolande Thomas.
T = 10 Students - \$200.00
Total amount of revenue from Sou. Univ. students: \$540.00.
Total number of students: 27.

Note: Applications, checks and money orders will be submitted to Jamie Baird on 2/21/09 during the EC Meeting.

Local Arrangements

Kathleen Handy is chair of the Local Arrangements Committee. Presently, Kathleen is working with the local convention bureau to get packets for conference materials such as: pamphlets, maps, brochures of the area, etc. She will try to provide assistance with registration and arrange for one evening of great entertainment!!!

Winter Meeting
Mid-South Sociological Association
Page 3

Important Dates

The Call for Papers will be posted toward the end of February or the first week in March. The deadline for members to submit papers to session organizers is April 28, 2009. Organizers of paper session(s), panel(s) and roundtable(s) should submit their information to the Program Chair by May 28, 2009 – OCMSSA@yahoo.com

Preliminary Program

The 2009 MSSA Program will be available for review by mid to late July or August.

Welcome/Greetings

- Governor of Louisiana
- Mayor of Lafayette
- Mayor of Baton Rouge

Program Cost

The cost of the program remains under investigation. Two bids have been received thus far. Approximately 250 programs will be printed.

Letters to Former MSSA Presidents

Letters will be mailed in April requesting financial support.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER
Financial Report - February 21, 2009

The Financial information that is attached to this report is the Budget Analysis for 2008, Balance Sheet as of December 2008, Income & Expenditure for fiscal year 2008, and Budget for fiscal year

2009. Total assets at the end of 2008 were \$106,521.50. The assets were held in 7 different accounts. The major portion of assets was in the Operating Fund CD Account (\$46,126.00) and in the Stanford Lyman CD Account (\$43,027.29). The Income and Expenditure Statement for 2008 shows Income at \$28,596.55 and Expenditure at \$27,820.06. Realized ordinary net income for 2008 was \$776.49.

The Association was again facing possible financial hardships because of hurricanes GUSTAV and IKE, and the serious national and global financial crisis. The Association negotiated with the Holiday Inn Huntsville and obtained partial waivers of our contractual obligations. This was in the area of room night requirements and food and beverage. The Association was prepared for a deficit of approximately \$7,310.00 in financing this year's meeting activities, but that amount was reduced to \$4,205.16, this was possible due to donations made by members and the program not costing the Association. This amount was a lot smaller than if the Association had to pay for penalties associated with our contract with the hotel. The Association took care of the deficit with upgrading food and beverages for certain events during the meeting.

The Association remains in reasonably good financial health and it is essential that the budget reflects and realized annual retained earnings of \$2,000.00 - \$2,500.00. Based on the projected budget for 2009 the expenditures will exceed income by approximately \$1,900.00. The budget was produced conservatively due to the economy and budget cuts at our member institutions. The deficit could grow if participation and registration in Lafayette doesn't meet levels from the past.

Totals assets as of December 31, 2008 is \$106,521.50. The assets are in several accounts:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Capitol City Bank -CD-OFA | \$46,126.00 |
| Capitol City Bank - Lyman MSFA | 2,738.62 |
| Capitol CityBank-RFA-CD | 5,539.47 |
| Capitol City Bank-OFA | 6,336.53 |
| Capitol City Bank-RFA | 1,119.83 |
| Spectrum Petty Cash-UCF | 1,633.76 |
| Stan Lyman - CD Acct | <u>\$43,027.29</u> |
| <u>TOTAL</u> | <u>\$106,521.50</u> |

The above figures are heartening but the Association cannot expect to avoid its contractual obligations in the future. Steps must be taken to ensure that all contractual obligations are financed from current revenue. To achieve this objective there must be a significant drive to retain current members and recruit new ones.

Jamie P. Baird
Secretary-Treasurer

Winter Report to the MSSA Executive Council – February 21, 2009
Presented by John Lynxwiler, Editor *Sociological Spectrum*

Notes from the October 2008 MSSA editorial board meeting in Huntsville, AL:

At the October 2008 Sociological Spectrum Editorial Board Meeting, the board was adjusted as follows:

Annette Allen, *Troy University in Montgomery* 2009
Amy Chasteen-Miller, *University of Southern Mississippi* 2009
Rhonda Evans, *University of Louisiana at Lafayette* 2010
Nicole Carr, *University of South Alabama* 2011
Jason Ford, *University of Central Florida* 2011
J. David Knottnerus, *Oklahoma State University* 2010
Jennifer Lerner, *Northern Virginia Community College* 2011
Michael Maume, *University of North Carolina - Wilmington* 2009
Demond Miller, *Rowan University* 2011
Jim Quinn, *University of North Texas* 2010
Jeremy Porter, *Rice University* 2011
Shirley Rainey, *Austin Peay State University* 2009
James Raymondo, *Tennessee Tech University* 2010
Kenneth Tunnell, *Eastern Kentucky University* 2009
Song Yang, *University of Arkansas* 2010

Also, at the October 2008 MSSA meetings, the Sociological Spectrum article of the year was awarded to Jason Ulsperger and David Knottnerus for their article “*The Social Dynamics of Elder Care: Rituals of Bureaucracy and Physical Neglect in Nursing Homes*” (Sociological Spectrum Volume 28, Number 4:357-388).

Finally, at the October 2008 MSSA meetings, we met with the Taylor & Francis representative, Pia Aliperti, who presented the 2008 T&F Publisher’s Report to the editorial board. The report was positive, and the journal’s Impact Factor increased to 0.525 (58/96 ranking), which is the highest ranking Sociological Spectrum has achieved.

Following the T&F report, we discussed several issues related to the marketing of the journal. In 2007, T&F replaced SARA and OPAL journal alerts with informaworld New Issue Alerts. This is a free email contents alerting service that notifies users of advance contents for over 1,050 journals. New users can sign up on the new platform at www.informaworld.com/alerting. In addition, Sociological Spectrum has been added to the Routledge books catalog that is mailed to book buyers and journal subscribers and included in the 2008 Sociology Journals of Related Interest (JRI) catalog that is sent to conferences throughout the year. Also, T&F will continue to take steps to send notices about Spectrum to eUpdates subscribers during 2008 (N=1,960 registrants who are customers of T&F/Routledge). Finally, T&F will once again support marketing

materials for the journal and the MSSA at the Southern Sociological Society meetings in New Orleans and the American Sociological Association meetings in San Francisco.

Notes on Sociological Spectrum for the 2008 Production Year:

During the 2008 calendar year, the Editorial Offices of Sociological Spectrum processed 51 manuscripts with the following outcomes:

- 12 accepted for publication
- 9 outstanding revise & resubmit
- 21 rejections
- 9 currently under review

(Note: The guest editor of Special Issue 28-5 processed 44 additional manuscripts for a 2008 grand total of 95 submissions during the 2008-09 calendar year.)

As a comparison, during the 2007 calendar year, the Editorial Offices of Sociological Spectrum

processed 77 manuscripts with the following outcomes:

- 11 accepted for publication
- 22 outstanding revise & resubmit
- 25 rejections
- 19 currently under review

(Note: The guest editor of Special Issue 27-6 processed 14 additional manuscripts for a 2007 grand total of 91 submissions during the 2007-08 calendar year.)

Volume 28 page summary:

Volume 28 met all of the publication deadlines set by the publishers. Issue 28-5 was the special issue on the *Religion in the 21st Century* co-edited by Christopher Ellison and Darren Sherkat.

As per contract with Taylor and Francis, Spectrum Volume 28 was allotted 780 manuscript pages for the year. The breakdown of journal pages used for Volume 28 was as follows:

- 28-01: 136 pages
- 28-02: 108 pages
- 28-03: 88 pages
- 28-04: 100 pages
- 28-05: 244 pages
- 28-06: 116 pages

The actual number of journal pages used was 792 for an overflow of 12 pages. The publication costs associated with the page overage were not billed to the MSSA nor to Sociological Spectrum.

Notes on Sociological Spectrum for the 2009 Production Year:

Issues 29-1 and 29-2 have been completed. Issue 29-2, the special issue on “*Race and Ethnicity in 21st Century American Religion*,” will be mailed next month. The delivery

date of 29-2 should coincide with the 2009 meeting of the Southern Sociological Society meetings in New Orleans. Taylor and Francis will staff a table at the meeting and market the journal and the association by placing an insert into the meeting packet of all registered SSS members and offering a free on-line copy of one article from the issue. Manuscript processing for Issue 29-4 is on schedule. The page usage for Issues 29-1 and 29-2 totals about 324 pages, which reflects the overage needed for special issue 29-2.

The line-up for issue 29-3 is as follows:

Running Off-Tackle Through the Last Bastion: Women, Resistance and Professional Football Josh Packard, Midwestern State University

Perspectives of Interracial Dating at a Predominantly White University
Todd Schoepflin, Niagara University

Local Labor Market Dynamics and Self-employment in a Rural New England
Stephen Lippmann, Miami University

Because It's FREE Poker! A Qualitative Analysis of Free Texas Hold'em Poker Tournaments
Christopher Bradley, Indiana - Purdue University
Ryan D. Schroeder, University of Louisville

REVIEW ESSAY: *The Shifting Sands of Post-Katrina Disaster Sociology*
Hurricane Katrina and the Redefinition of Landscape. By Demond Miller and Jason Rivera.
J. Steven Picou, University of South Alabama

The tentative line-up for issue 29-4 is as follows:

Economic Restructuring, the Educational Income Gap and Overall Income Inequality
Don E. Albrecht, Utah State University
Scott G. Albrecht, University of Maryland

American Poverty Cause Beliefs and Structured Inequality Legitimation
James W. Robinson, University of North Carolina at Pembroke

A Model of Racial Residential History and Its Association with Self-Rated Health and Mortality Among Black and White Adults in the U.S.
Erin Ruel, Georgia State University
Stephanie A. Robert, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Parents' Perceptions of Their Adolescent Children, Parental Resources, and Parents' Satisfaction with the Parent-Child Relationship
Teresa M. Downing-Matibag, Iowa State University ?

Final notes:

Sociological Spectrum has been included in the American Sociological Association's guide to professional journals, which should be released to members in the next few months.

Finally, I want to thank our managing editor, Sara Neuenschwander for her support and hard work, which has kept everything running smoothly. She not only managed the journal, but she also managed to complete her M.A. thesis and obtain university funding for her Ph.D. degree. This will be Sara's last year as managing editor.

***Forum* Editor Report**

1. An issue of MSSA Forum that included a call for session organizers, calls for paper competitions, scholarship competitions and such was put out in January.
 - a. Membership Chair Tina Deshotels is having her committee use the issue as a means of contacting departments in our region in the hopes of increasing membership and/or awareness of the organization and what it does.
2. Another issue of *Forum* will be released once the call for papers is issued
 - a. It will be formatted to allow a reader to quickly scan the sessions, session organizers and their emails.
 - b. It will then direct readers to the website for additional session organizer contact information.

Respectfully Submitted February 21, 2009, by *Forum* Editor, Dr. Timothy B. Gongaware

Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship – Mid-year report and questions Jackie Eller

1. Updating email list for graduate program directors to encourage submissions – will send next week and resend both the first and end of summer.
2. Will once again add our advertisement to organization websites and newsletters. Let me know of any you think will be a good resource. It was included in *Forum*.
3. Please encourage submissions from your universities as last year the submissions came only from FL and TX.
4. I am in process of filling the scholarship committee – will keep you updated.
5. What about the coordinator? The minutes were unclear about whether you wanted this to be elected or not. The P&P say we advertise, ask for letter of interest, and the council appoints for 4 years. **(resolved)**
6. Other concerns?



**The Mid South Sociological Association Scholarship
Committee is pleased to announce the**

Stanford Lyman Memorial Scholarship
(\$1,000.00)

Eligibility requirements:

1. Ph.D. candidate working on a dissertation in sociological theory, symbolic interaction, race relations, law, or ethics.
2. Students at any stage beyond the dissertation proposal are eligible to apply.
3. Applicant must be receiving the degree from an institution within the MSSA member states (see <http://www.midsouthsoc.org/> for more information) or from an institution which has active MSSA student/faculty memberships.

Submission information:

1. Each applicant is to submit the following:
 - a. Letter of introduction which includes a brief discussion of how the applicant's work reflects Stanford Lyman's tradition within sociology
 - b. Description of dissertation research project, such as a research proposal – approximately 5 pages,
 - c. Letter of support from the applicant's dissertation committee chair which evaluates the dissertation project,
 - d. Timetable for completion of the dissertation and degree, and
 - e. Current vitae.
2. Deadline **September 1, 2009**. The scholarship will be announced at the fall MSSA conference banquet, but the committee does reserve the right not to award the scholarship in any given year.
3. Applications may be sent by mail or email (WORD attachment only) to the scholarship coordinator at the following address:

Professor Jackie Eller
Box 126 MTSU
Murfreesboro, TN 37132
jaeller@mtsu.edu

For more information contact Professor Eller by email or 615-898-2509.

**MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
COMMITTEE ON WOMEN ANNUAL MEETING REPORT
Mid-winter Executive Council Meeting
February, 2009
Lafayette, LA
Rhonda Evans, Chair of Committee on Women**

2008 Women's Caucus Meeting:

The 2008 Women's Caucus meeting was not widely attended, with approximately only 7 to 8 people present. Dana Green chaired the meeting in Rhonda Evans' absence. The abbreviated agenda included selection of a nominee for President to be support by the Women's Caucus in the 2009 MSSA election.

Slate of Nominees for the 2008 MSSA Election

President Elect: Dana Green

Female Participation in the 2008 MSSA Conference Programs

In the 2008 program, there are a total 43 sessions. Twenty-one of these sessions were organized or presided over by a female. There are a total of 126 papers being presented and 73 of these had at least one female author. Of the 85 single author presentations, 49 were female. On the 41 presentations with two or more authors, there were a total of 24 female authors

**Minority Caucus Mid-Year Report
Dana M. Greene, Ph.D., Chair**

I regret that I am unable to attend the mid-year meetings in Lafayette. My husband is being "deployed" for his job and thus I needed to stay home and help with the preparations for his departure and lengthy time away from home.

1. The Minority Caucus had a very productive discussion at the Annual Meetings in October, 2008. During our discussions, we reviewed the contributions to the Minority Fund over the past three years. While pledges are up, fewer people are actually "making good" on their commitments. As a result, during 2007-2008, the monies in our Minority Fund increased, but did not match or exceed the monies raised during the 2006-2007 AY.

To this end, the group discussed ways in which monies could be raised to support the scholarship fund, while still recognizing the problems facing many (including our members) as a result of our bad economy and recession.

2. The Caucus would like to fund increasing numbers of students from HBCUs at future meetings. Drafts of the Application for funds are under revision and will be made available to faculty application in advance of the October, 2009 Annual Meetings.
3. The Minority Caucus also decided to support the nomination by the Women's Caucus of Dr. Dana M. Greene for MSSA President-elect. Dr. Greene accepted the nomination.
4. Dr. Shondrah Tarrezz-Nash was nominated to be Chair of the Minority Caucus. She declined the nomination.
5. The Caucus would like to see more sessions at upcoming meetings on racial and ethnic issues in the MSSA region. Several members offered to organize such sessions.

**MID-SOUTH SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MID-WINTER MEETING REPORT
Executive Council Meetings
February, 2009
Lafayette, LA
Tina Hebert Deshotels, Membership Committee Chair
Jacksonville State University**

Membership Committee members:

- ❖ Jackie Eller, Middle Tennessee State University, TN
- ❖ Kim Davies, Augusta State University, GA
- ❖ Todd Mathews, West Georgia State University, GA
- ❖ John Lynxwiler, University of Central Florida, FL
- ❖ Mark Konty, Eastern Kentucky University, KY
- ❖ Dana Greene, North Carolina Central University, NC
- ❖ Earl Wright, University of Houston, TX
- ❖ Demond Miller, Rowan University, NJ

The Membership Committee has been working diligently to increase membership and participation in the MSSA this year. We worked on contacting those who did not renew their membership from the previous year hoping to get them to renew. We hoped to bring as many of these non-renewals back into the fold as possible.

The committee is working on compiling an accurate listing of all sociology departments in our members states. We obtained a partial list from ASA and are adding

to this. From this list we sent emails, and mailings of forum as well as flyers. We asked that each department post a copy of the flyer on their bulletin boards and encourage their faculty and students to attend.

We have also targeted current members in our efforts. We recognize our current members as the backbone of the organization. We are sending them flyers and asking that they help encourage participation and attendance.

Our strategy entailed using email lists, address lists, letters, phone calls and personal contacts to further the goal of maintaining and increasing membership. Using email distribution lists of all the sociologists in our given locales we sent the "Call for Session Organizers" along with invitations to join the MSSA.

I would like to raise the issue of departmental memberships as a way to increase membership. For some universities, departments are reimbursed for memberships but not individuals. Departments have contacted me and been willing to pay for each of their individual faculty members membership but only as a lump sum. Whether or not we offer discounts for these memberships is a separate issue but might be something to consider as well.

I wish to extend my personal thanks to those on the Membership Committee for their hard work and time in serving the MSSA. Their contribution to the betterment of the MSSA is most appreciated. I sincerely regret my absence and look forward to seeing each of you at the annual meeting.

Respectfully Submitted: February 19, 2009

Tina Deshotels

**Chair of Nominations -- Mid-Year Report
Jackie Eller**

President Elect:

Xiaohu Xu [xu@soc.msstate.edu] – MSU
Greene, Dana M [dgreene@NCCU.EDU] – NCCU*
Earl Wright – Texas Southern

Vice-President Elect:

Carol Thompson – TCU
Vicky MacLean – MTSU
Earl Wright – Texas Southern
Jeremy Porter -- Rice

Chair of Committee on Minorities:

Chair of Committee on Membership:

Tina Deshotels – JSU*

Chair of Nominations:

David LoConto – JSU
Ana-Marie Kinnel

Nominations committee:

I am in process of choosing members of the nominations committee. Notes on nominations – As it seems nominations are not readily forthcoming, it is my intention to solicit “nominations” by calling people directly, but I request that each of you today make a nomination for these positions. I also sent an email to the membership once again soliciting nominations.

David Gay, UCF

*Have agreed to run for the position.

TO: Executive Committee

FROM: Obie Clayton

RE: Annual Meetings

Jamie,

Please give my regards to the committee and I am sorry that I could not be there. In my new position of Director of Sponsored Projects, several deadlines had to be met today. But here is my report:

The MSSA has contracts with the following Hotels:

| Year | City | Hotel | Dates | Price |
|-------|-------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| 2009 | Lafayette | Hilton | Nov. 4-7 | \$112.00 |
| 2010 | Baton Rouge | Holiday Inn | Oct. 13-16 | \$101.00 |
| 2011 | Little Rock | DoubleTree | Oct. 25-30 | \$118.00 |
| 2012 | Mobile | Renaissance | Oct. 26-30 | \$135.00 |
| 2013* | Atlanta | Holiday Inn | | |
| 2014 | Mobile | Renaissance | Nov. 5-8 | \$145.00 |
| 2015* | Atlanta | Holiday Inn | | |
| 2016 | Huntsville | Holiday Inn | | |

*I am in negotiations with the Holiday Inn in Atlanta and will have their bid by Wed. of next week. If prices are out of our range, we have Jackson, Ms. as a backup and I will get this to you.

Stanford Lyman Distinguished Book Committee, Mid-Winter Report

The members of the Stanford M. Lyman Book Committee for 2009 are: Carl L. Bankston III, Chair; Dana Greene; Danielle Hidalgo, Carole Thompson, Joan Morris, David LoConto, and DeMond Miller. We have sent our several calls for nominations for the book award over the list serve and through the newsletter. I’ve also asked committee members and individual MSSA members to encourage nominations. While there is still sufficient time to receive nominations and consider books, we have not yet received any nominations. Recommendations on how to encourage nominations will be gratefully welcomed.

One point that the EC may want to reconsider is the nature of books eligible. In years past, edited volumes were considered and some edited volumes have received the award. Currently, only authored books are eligible. Since many prestigious book awards (including most of the book awards given by sections of the ASA) do go to edited volumes, and since many edited volumes are, in fact, excellent works of scholarship, it may be reasonable to return to our previous practice of including them. The MSSA probably wants to continue excluding textbooks and reference books from eligibility for the Lyman Award.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl L. Bankston III
Chair, Stanford Lyman Distinguished Book Committee