



Mid-South Sociological Association

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REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT-ELECT/PROGRAM CHAIR

Preparations for this year's meeting have started well. President Tom Calhoun has been very helpful in making materials from this past year available and in maintaining steady communication. Although there continues to be some uncertainty about the amount of support Tulane will be able to offer as it seeks to recover from Hurricane Katrina, I did have a conversation with Tulane Liberal Arts and Sciences Interim Dean James Maclaren on this matter. Dean Maclaren indicated that Tulane probably would be able to help with printing, and we will be able to discuss further support in the future. The Tulane Department of Sociology has been very helpful, by assigning Ms. Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo as a graduate assistant for MSSA preparations. Ms. Hidalgo is also serving this year as chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for the Southern Sociological Society, so she will bring extensive organizational experience to helping organize the MSSA meetings. In addition to Ms. Hidalgo, an advanced doctoral student at Tulane, Ms. Farrah Gafford, has agreed to work on our program committee and to work closely with me in putting together this year's meeting. Ms. Gafford will be familiar to our members at Alcorn, since she spent the Fall semester of 2005 as an instructor there. Our Program Committee for 2006 will consist of the following members:

Chair Carl L. Bankston III, Tulane University
Jackie Eller, Middle Tennessee State University
David Knottnerus, Oklahoma State University
Mark Konty, Auburn University
David LoConto, Jackson State University
Kim Davies, Augusta State University
Nicole Flynn, University of South Alabama
Earl Wright II, Fisk University
Danielle Antoinette Hidalgo, Tulane University
Farrah Gafford, Tulane University
Dawood Sultan, University of Tennessee at Martin

The response to the first call for session organizers and the initial response to the second call for session organizers have been very encouraging. So far, we have had proposals for twenty-five sessions. Among these, Dr. Kevin Gotham, currently at the National Science

Foundation, has offered to set up an NSF presentation at the meeting. I will be contacting individual members who may be willing to organize theme-related sessions.

I am pleased to report, also, that Tom Brignall, of Tennessee Tech, has agreed to serve as chair of the Stanford N. Lyman Book Committee. Tom has been working with Lachelle Norris, the chair this past year, in order to ensure continuity and efficiency in the selection of the 2006 Stanford N. Lyman Distinguished Book.

I want to encourage members of the Executive Committee, as well as all other MSSA members, to seek session organizers and paper presenters for this year's meetings. It is my hope that the 2006 gathering Lafayette will be remembered as one of the most successful in our organization's history.