

network news

Sociologists for Women in Society



Salvador Dali Museum, a half mile from our 2012 Winter Meeting in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Toward a Feminist Institution: Transforming the Academy

Come One, Come All—
SWS Converges on St. Petersburg,
Florida, February 2012

By Heather Laube (Program Chair) &
Pat Martin (President Elect)

Sara Crawley (see elsewhere in this issue) assures us we'll love St. Petersburg when we ascend up on it for the SWS Winter Meeting, February 2-5, 2012. We'll not only enjoy the city's sunny—and hopefully warm—climate, but also its beauty and charm. St. Petersburg is located in Pinellas County, which has just under a million residents (245,000 reside in St. Petersburg, 69% of whom are white, 24% black, and 7% Hispanic). Pinellas has a reputation of being the "old folks" county in Florida and here's why: The percentage of residents 65 or over is 21%, and in the city of St. Petersburg, 16% are 65 or older. That figure for the United States is 13%. Pinellas's percentage is actually higher than the nations with the most seniors—Japan and Italy, both at 19%—so you can see where the reputation comes from. Pinellas is a relatively affluent county, with a median household of \$43,000, and it is nearly equally divided between Democrats and Republicans (a few more Democrats), compared to its next-door neighbor, Hillsborough County (which

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reflections On Our Reimagining

By Tracy E. Ore, SWS President



As I sit writing this last message at the end of my term as president, I look forward with great anticipation to turning

over the responsibilities of office to President-Elect Patricia Yancey Martin. My excitement about this transition is not only due to the fact that it will take place in a much warmer climate (it is currently -10 in Minnesota), but also because of the wisdom and energy that Pat brings to our organization. This is reflected in the exciting program that she has assembled for our Winter meeting in St. Petersburg that will surely invigorate and inspire those who attend. SWS is such a robust

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organization because of the many strong feminist leaders we have had, and I am honored to have had the opportunity to serve. I look forward to our continued strengthening under Pat's leadership and to the new directions she takes us.

When I began my presidency, I called on the membership to join me in reflecting on the path of SWS that led us to being such a powerful organization so that we could re-imagine where we could go next. Building on the work begun by past-president Denise Segura, we engaged in the often challenging process of strategic planning. Many of you shared your ideas and concerns, and your feedback has enabled us to enter a new phase of this process. At the upcoming Winter meetings a new group of women will begin digging deeper into the strategic planning process. I am grateful that SWS Vice-president Leslie Hossfeld has agreed to chair this endeavor and would like to thank members Julia McQuillan, Marlese Durr, Barbara Risman, Cindy Anderson, Myra Marx Ferree, Hara Bastas, Zandria Robinson, Kecia Johnson, Judith Lorber, Mindy Fried, and Carrie Lee Smith for agreeing to engage in the important work. This group is charged with reviewing the data from the external consultants

presented at the Winter meetings, examining our mission statement and bylaws, and considering priorities for long-range planning. We will most certainly learn a great deal from this process as we consider how we can become even more effective as an organization both inside and outside of the academy.

Another exciting endeavor this year that is consistent with reimagining our organization is the search for a new Executive Officer in a newly conceived Executive Office. As we have grown as an organization, it is important that the structure that supports it shifts so that we can continue to have a sound organizational base. Jessica Holden Sherwood has provided invaluable service to us all over the last several years and we owe her a great deal gratitude for the work that she has done in not only enabling us to function effectively but also in helping us to consider how the structure of the Executive Office needs to change. Thank you to Tracey Steele for her willingness to chair the search committee for this new position, as well as to search committee members Tiffany Taylor, Shirley Hill, Lisa Brush, Rebecca Romo, and Laura Kramer.

The strength of our organization and the exceptional abilities of its

members were once again exhibited in our recent election. Past-President Denise Segura and the Nominations Committee assembled a strong slate of candidates and I offer my most sincere congratulations to those who were selected by the membership to serve our organization, especially President-Elect Bandana Purkayastha. Thank you for all that you have already contributed to SWS and all that you will bring to us through your time of service.

When I first learned that I was elected President, I was both honored and overwhelmed; SWS has long been an important part of my life, but being elected as President was something that I had never envisioned. Nevertheless, I began my term with a commitment to celebrating our rich history as well as to bring in new voices and new perspectives. Now that I reflect on this past year, I am appreciative of all of you who were willing to support this commitment. It is my hope that we all will continue to reflect on how SWS can grow as an organization to support feminist scholarship and activism. While we will certainly face some challenges, I am confident that we continue to grow.

Welcome to St. Petersburg— A Perfect Little Downtown for an SWS Winter Meeting!

By Sara Crawley

The City of St. Pete is on the west side of Tampa Bay, and the City of Tampa (where the airport is only 15 minutes from our hotel) is on the east. St. Pete's downtown is nestled on Tampa Bay, not

the Gulf of Mexico, but beautiful Gulf beaches are close and accessed inexpensively by local trolley. St. Pete downtown offers the opportunity to wander on foot to museums, restaurants and cafes, pubs and wine bars.

Somehow the sleepy City of St. Petersburg escaped much of the overbuilding characteristic of Florida by preserving *the entire waterfront* area as public park space! As a result, just 1 block from the hotel, one can **walk, run, or rollerblade three miles continuously along the seawall via a series of waterfront parks.**

Look sharp, and you'll see plentiful sea life in the Bay. Tampa Bay itself is large—seven miles by five miles protected from the open Gulf—creating a perfect home for dolphins, manatees, stingrays, turtles, seabirds and fish, and sharks both large and small. With an average air **temperature range of 55-70 degrees in early February**, the weather is likely to be perfect for enjoying the view.

The waterfront offers multiple amenities. Directly in front of the hotel are **The St. Pete Pier, Demen's Landing**

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park, and the city's municipal marina. The St. Pete Pier runs a half-mile and lets you walk above the water to its a signature inverted pyramid at the end. If that's not enough fun for you, at the end of the pier, the Dolphin Queen will take on you a boat ride looking for dolphins (\$22), the Pier Bait House will rent you fishing gear, Wheel Fun Rentals will rent you a four-person bicycle, and Electric Marina boats will rent you an electric boat. Or try my favorite pier pastime: sipping a libation and watching sailboats race. The Pier offers food, but I would look to the land-side restaurants for better fare. Before you leave the area, check out Demen's Landing park and the City Marina on one side of the pier and the Vinoy Hotel yacht basin on the other. It's a beautiful area for strolling and sight-seeing.

Cultural attractions abound. The **Dali Museum** (\$21) is the largest installation of Salvador Dali's works outside Spain and is housed in a new \$22 million waterfront building. The facade has a Dali-esque presence, and a double-helix staircase takes you to the art (on the second floor in case of a hurricane storm surge). The gift shop (free) has cool, non-touristy gifts. Check out the whimsical, blown **glass artwork of Dale Chihuly** (about \$20 admission, or free for the free 15-minute film on how the glass is blown), the **Fine Arts Museum**, and the **Florida Holocaust Museum**. The **Albert Whitted airport** is a unique waterfront airport for small craft that boasts the first commercial air flight in US history (it went across the bay to Tampa). The control tower has a quaint restaurant and bar overlooking the airport and bay. For great gifts for the folks back home, the **Florida Craftsmen** (Ok, they need to rethink the name) offers original local artwork.

Where to eat? Many options cluster in two general districts—**Beach Drive**

(upscale and tasty) and **Central Avenue** (eclectic and inexpensive). For the former, walk north along Beach Drive between Central Avenue and 5th Avenue North (culminating at the very upscale Vinoy Hotel) for a few short blocks of shopping and dining. Many restaurants have sidewalk seating overlooking the parks on the water. Dining favorites include a tapas bar and restaurant (Ceviche), several seafood and/or steak restaurants (400 Beach, Parkshore Grille), an English/Indian pub (Moon Under Water), and a few truly snooty places (Vinoy Hotel, Cassis American Brasserie). All have good food, but require a bit of cash. The best gelato in Florida is also along this route at Paciugo (300 Beach Dr.) and is very affordable. Yum.

The more eclectic and less upscale direction takes you on a walk west (away from the water) along Central Avenue. There are a few upscale places in this direction, too, including the eclectic but tasty (Café Alma @ 260 1st Ave S; Midtown Sundries on 1st Ave S), oysters (Central Avenue Oyster Bar), sushi and martinis (Vue Sushi). You will find mid-price but funky places for Mexican/southwest cuisine (Z Grille or Red Mesa Cantina) and truly inexpensive places for pasta and pizza slices (Fortunato's), Cuban (Pipo's), Thai (The King & I), and Indian (Green Chili). Schokolad offers handmade chocolates (including vegan and kosher options), and The Cupcake Spot offers cupcakes so large you need a fork.

As for **libations**, St. Pete has great options. Our meeting occurs during "First Friday," when the city closes a block of Central Avenue (between 2nd and 3rd Streets North) and offers a band and relaxed open container laws (cocktails may be purchased in a go cup). Crowley's Irish Pub and A Taste For Wine (on the second floor, identifiable by a New Orleans-style balcony) are good choices, as is my favorite, The Independent



Hilton Bayfront St. Petersburg, home of our 2012 Winter Meeting.

(excellent but pricey Belgian and other European beers; one block away on 3rd Street N). Craft beers are available at Ale and Witch (111 2nd Ave N) and Tryst, which bills itself as a "gastro lounge."

LGBT space is a cab ride away. The Hideaway—which boasts being the oldest lesbian bar in the US—is truly what I would call a dyke bar, with a pool table and lots of friends you haven't met yet. LTrain is a quaint living room and 25-seat movie theater frequented by lesbians and trans women. Georgie's offers something for everyone, including food, drag shows, dancing and he big game of the day on TV.

But wait a minute! You have a meeting to attend, and there is certainly plenty to entice you to stay at the conference, too. I look forward to seeing all of you, whether at the conference or on the streets!

(*Feminist Institution continued from page 1*) includes Tampa), which is far more Democratic. Admittedly, though, it does have affluent residents and some corporations that give it resources and make cultural and sports events key attractions of the area. Until recently, the Tampa Bay Rays played their home games at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg and the St. Louis Cardinals held spring training in Progress Field, just across the street from the Bayfront Hotel where our meeting will be held.

As you may recall, the theme for the Winter Meeting is “Toward a Feminist Institution: Transforming the Academy.” SWS President Pat Martin’s goal in selecting this theme was to encourage reflection on the institution we have spent so much time in and to challenge us to think about how to make it an object of feminist social action. As Pat pointed out in describing the theme, we have “come a long way baby” in regards to establishing women’s studies programs and increasing women on faculty, women full professors, women in administrative positions, women as journal editors and ASA officers (to wit: Ridgeway and Glass), SSSP officers, program and grants managers, and so on. While the job is far from done, we now have many sociology departments we label as “women friendly,” as documented by our very own SWS Committee on Academic Justice (formerly called the Academic Transformation Taskforce). In short, we are far from satisfied but we know progress has been made and we believe we can achieve far more.

The program focuses particular attention on the National Science Foundation’s “institutional change” ADVANCE program. Many years ago, NSF had a Visiting Professorships for Women program that took individual women away from their home institutions for a year and gave them research money to give their careers a boost. After about ten

years, they saw that while this helped individuals, it left both their home institutions and the institutions they went to for the year unchanged. And, so, ADVANCE was created. This program focuses on STEM fields—science, technology, engineering, and math—but also includes sociology, psychology, anthropology, and other social sciences. One of our own, Laura Kramer, served as Program Officer for NSF’s ADVANCE in 2008–2009 and many members are involved in this program now. Many SWS members have played the role of social scientist for ADVANCE projects by documenting initiatives and dynamics and their effects on women faculty. They have helped grant applicants and managers figure out and understand institutional dynamics, structures, and outcomes. As Sharon Bird and Kathrin Zippel say in their column (in this newsletter), ADVANCE programs come in many shapes and sizes—including community colleges and historically black institutions as well as Research I universities. ADVANCE programs emphasize recruiting and retaining women of color as well as majority women. These programs recognize institutions must change for women to prosper and realize opportunities to use their full range of knowledge and skills. Sharon and Kathrin (and others) have developed several workshops that complement this theme. They include “Conducting University Climate Studies & Creating Status of Women Reports,” “How ADVANCE and Related Programs are Being Used to Enhance Institutions of Higher Education,” “Advice From the Field: How to Write Grants and Obtain Funding for Your Research,” and an informal breakfast session during which members interested in applying for ADVANCE grants (or simply looking for more information) can chat with those who have experience with the process and program.

Five Plenaries

Our St. Petersburg program features five plenaries. One is a brief opening statement by Pat Martin about the “State of SWS” today, with some reflections on where we have come from and where we may be going. Another focuses on ADVANCE and will feature the role of social scientists in these institutional transformation projects, reflect on how to study one’s home institution, and highlight some of the NSF ADVANCE program’s accomplishments over the last decade. A third plenary stems from issues identified with our sister-to-sister program and focuses on mentoring across color lines, with a goal of fostering successful efforts toward tenure and promotion to associate and full professor. A fourth features historian Stephanie Coontz, who will discuss what researchers can and cannot accomplish by taking their research findings public and why the effort is worth it. She’ll draw on her own experience and that of the Council on Contemporary Families to introduce useful tips, as well as pitfalls to avoid, when working with the mass media. Finally, the fifth, “Feminists Know What to Wish For,” features SWS members and ASA President Erik Olin Wright on the issue of “real utopias”; in this one, SWS members will address their *feminist visions* of “real utopias” and Erik will have a chance to respond.

Workshops and Panels

The program this year features a variety of workshops in hopes they will be useful to students and new scholars, address issues in the careers of members, focus on changing the academy, and engage with and use the media to promote feminist messages in society, including mainstream discourse. Of particular interest to students is the ever-popular “Critique Me” session, during which mentors provide advice on CVs, letters of

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application, teaching portfolios, research statements, dual career concerns, issues for feminists of color, and challenges for GLBTQ scholars. The Sister-to-Sister Committee, led by Ronni Tichenor and Vrushali Patil, has organized a mentoring roundtable for graduate students where papers will be presented and authors will meet one-on-one with mentors who will provide feedback. Current and former journal editors Joya Misra, Dana Britton, and Marybeth Stalp will lead a workshop on the journal article publishing process, especially the importance of the writing one does before submission, including writing groups, how to choose the right journal for your work, how to orient an article toward a particular journal, and how to revise. Mindy Stomblor will lead a workshop on teaching sexuality that will discuss best practices of teaching this “touchy” subject, potential challenges and pitfalls and how to avoid them and succeed in spite of them, various class exercises, and a number of tactics to protect instructors, given the controversial nature of the topic in today’s political climate.

We have sessions for those at other career stages as well. Esther Chow and Marcia Texler Segal have corralled SWSers at various career stages from graduate school to retirement, with tenure-track and non-tenured positions, and in academic and non-academic settings, to discuss issues, decisions, strategies, and advice for all seasons of the academic life course. They hope the session will empower SWSers to transform social contexts beyond the academy. Wanda Rushing has organized (and will speak on) a panel on “Getting Promoted to Full Professor,” featuring Shirley Jackson, Dana Britton, Julia McQuillan, and Jan Thomas, who will offer tips on and suggestions for those who want to apply and also those who review dossiers and write recommendation letters for others. These

scholars represent varied perspectives from small private colleges to public and private research universities. Janet Hankin and Mary Virnoche have coordinated a workshop on “Navigating Formal Leadership Pathways in the Academy,” during which SWS members with experience in administrative positions will discuss strategies for career-building, pathways to leadership, and how to identify mentors/helpers. Issues and advantages for feminist leadership will be examined, and topics like leadership styles, challenges to women administrators, dealing with bosses, bullies, unhappy students, discontented faculty, sexism, and stress will be addressed in an interactive session.

Several sessions on creating change in the academy are featured. Giovanna Fallo, Heather Sullivan-Catlin, and Michelle Comacho will lead a workshop on strategies for addressing and mobilizing around work/family issues on campus. Anastasia Prokos, Crystal Jackson, and Solange Simões are working together on “Women’s and Gender Studies and Feminist Transformation of the Academy,” with a goal of developing suggestions for faculty and SWS about how to strengthen Women’s and Gender Studies units that can bolster structural transformations of the academy. The Committee on Academic Justice is sponsoring a hands-on workshop organized by Kris DeWelde, Abby Ferber, and Andi Stepnik that offers participants an opportunity to discuss aspects of what makes for a “gender progressive department.” Small group discussions will allow participants to discuss “best practices,” and workshop facilitators will guide a conversation about how to strategize movement toward more “gender progressive” departments. Jeanne Flavin, on behalf of the Social Action Committee, and Susan Lee, of the International Committee, have assembled a panel to examine the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

(CEDAW). The panel will educate SWS members about this treaty, explain why the United States is not a party to it, and suggest ways for SWS to advocate U.S. participation. This panel complements “Effective Global Feminist Partnerships and How We Build Them,” organized by Clare Weber of our International Committee and Joya Misra, *Gender & Society* editor. International scholars and members of *Gender & Society’s* editorial board, Mary García Castro from Catholic University in Salvador, Brazil; Rebecca Dobash from Britain, visiting at Arizona State University; and Akosua Ampofo from University of Ghana-Legon, are among those participating.

We also have several sessions focusing on the media. Afshan Jafar, Mindy Fried, Theta Pavis, and Jessica Holden Sherwood have combined their experience and knowledge of academia and cyberspace to create a workshop on “Networking & Blogging: How Sociologists can Create an Online Presence, Learn to Use Twitter, and Blog Their Way to a Bigger part of the Global Discussion.” Are you curious about blogging but don’t know how to begin? Do you wonder what “public sociology” looks like when plugged into the Internet? Do you want to see work by feminist scholars that transforms the academy and broadens public discourse? If so, this is the session for you. In addition to her plenary, Stephanie Coontz will lead a smaller, more intimate follow-up workshop, “The Nitty Gritty of Work Going Public,” which will deal with a range of specific issues such as how to write op ed pieces, how to handle press queries, and how to prepare for radio or television interviews.

Roundtable Presentations

To our amazement, and delight, 74 abstracts were submitted this time around for roundtable presentations. Graduate

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(*Feminist Institution continued from page 5*) student Jesse Klein received them and organized them, and with the help of four other graduate students (from Florida State University), arranged them into 20 simultaneous sessions. The themes represented include the following: Gender and Violence; Intersectionality; Body, Sports, and Women; Health and Food; Sexualities; Animal Welfare and Women; International Studies; Methods and Teaching; Childbearing; Masculinities; Sister-to-Sister Mentoring; and more. We regret having all of them at once but the scarcity of time this year pressured us in this direction.

SWS Council, Committee, and Business Meetings

We conduct important business at the Winter Meeting. Elected officers who comprise the Executive Council meet twice during the meeting to consider the business of the organization. All committees meet to review, assess, and plan for their areas of responsibility. Most importantly, two Business Meetings are held. Since SWS members meet face-to-face only twice a year—at the ASA Annual Meeting and the Winter Meeting—the business of the organization is a critical task for these meetings. *Two Business Meetings for all members* allow officers

and committee chairs to report on their activities and plans, to discuss and vote on issues ranging from the annual budget to new proposals, and to hear from each other. (Be aware: New proposals cannot be approved from the floor at a Business Meeting; new proposals must first go to Executive Council for discussion, review, and recommended action.) To make our organization effective, we urge all SWS members to attend and participate in Business Meetings. Not coincidentally, *Business Meetings are the place to receive one's travel reimbursement form.*

Related Events

Besides our Saturday night banquet with a DJ, great food, and good views, the Welcome Reception this year, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday, will be organized by our Membership Committee with promises to help us meet new people and have fun. On Friday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., a Student Reception will be held with (we are told) a “free drink ticket” at a nearby venue (to be determined). And, by popular demand, bring your yoga clothes because Gayle Sulik will lead us in a session. Finally, as described by Kristy Shih in reporting on the silent auction at the banquet, a local organization for which we’ll raise funds is featured—Community Action Stops

Abuse (CASA). We’ll support CASA’s Peacemaker Program (that began in June 1998), which offers peace education and violence prevention activities for children. The program’s purpose is to empower youth to live peaceful lives.

In closing

Well, folks, that’s about it. Heather and Pat hope you like the program. And, oh yes, Pat (impulsively) agreed to give members “Saturday afternoon off.” As a result, the Saturday program ends at 1:15 p.m. or so, after which members are free to visit art museums, shop, tour on the St. Pete Trolley, go to the beach, and otherwise entertain themselves—until the banquet and silent auction begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Mahaffey Theatre Ballroom, across the street from the hotel with great views of the bay and Dali Museum. Bring your auction items and your checkbooks! One caution: A few committees and officers may be asked to meet during Saturday afternoon—but we’ll keep it to a minimum.

Thank you for your investment in SWS and your participation in our excellent journal, substantive programs, and business and committee meetings. We urge you to register for the meeting and hotel now, if you have not done so. Otherwise, see you there!

Beaches, Bars, and... Roundtables Galore!

by Jesse Klein, Florida State University

Do not let the allure of the beautiful hotel and sandy beaches of St. Petersburg distract you (too much, that is)—this year’s program is teeming with wonderfully diverse and rigorous research. We received nearly 75 roundtable submissions for the 2012 winter meeting making for more roundtable submissions this year than the last two winter meetings

combined! Submissions came from all around the world and from an assortment of colleges, universities, and organizations. On Friday morning, February 3rd, students and faculty will convene at 20 roundtables to present and discuss research on topics ranging from teaching and methods to culture, sexualities, animal welfare, and social movements. Following the theme of the conference, there will be roundtables on moving towards a feminist institution and on international research issues. This year’s program represents all forms of empirical

and theoretical research on various topics of interest and promises to invigorate all who attend. We are pleased to have such an impressive turnout of scholars and their research for our meeting and along with the comparably extraordinary list of workshops and panels, there will be no shortage of sessions for our inquiring minds. We hope to see you all there and in attendance at the roundtable of your choice!

Good News for Students in St. Petersburg!

By Laura S. Logan

The Student Concerns Committee (SCC) has been busy this year. Please plan to attend the SCC Meeting in St. Petersburg. We'll be discussing future plans, taking stock of what we've accomplished during my term, and welcoming our new Student Representative, Veronica Montes. Your participation is needed and valued.

Jesse Klein, at Florida State University, is organizing the Student Reception in St. Petersburg. Students should plan on making connections and having fun at the Friday evening reception! Many thanks to Jesse for her work on this event. Also in the works is an exciting session at the winter meeting: **Breakfast with Scholars**. SCC discussed this idea at the San Antonio meeting and with the help of Pat Martin, Heather Laube, and a

student planning committee specifically for the winter meeting, this wonderful idea is being realized in St. Petersburg. We asked students who plan to attend the meeting to identify scholars and areas of interest so we could be attentive to specific student wishes. At the 2012 winter meeting, SWS students will be able to have breakfast and informal conversation with esteemed scholars in six specific areas of interest. The scholars will be announced soon (I'm waiting for one more confirmation!). The areas of interest that will be represented are:

- Collective Behavior/Social Movements;
- Gender and Sex;
- Intersectionality;
- Migration/Immigration and International/Transnational;
- Women of Color Feminist Research;
- Work/Labor/Occupations.

I am grateful to the generous scholars who will be our guests at the

Breakfast with Scholars, and to the students on the planning committee: Melissa Bamford, Marni Brown, Corrine Castro, Kiana Cox, Ilana Demantas, Christina Jackson, Jesse Klein, Miriam Sessions, and Chandra Waring. We hope to make this an annual event so please plan to attend!

As I prepare to end my term as Student Representative, I offer my thanks to all of the students in SWS who've shared their ideas, their expertise, their labors, and their friendship. I'm grateful also to SWS members, and officers, for supporting students and our goals. Special thanks to Rachel Allison, who served before me and an enthusiastic welcome to our new Student Representative, Veronica Montes. The winter meeting promises many workshops that will interest students, including one about publishing. There will also be roundtables, the SWS banquet, and all sorts of cool opportunities for professional development and fun in St. Petersburg. I look forward to seeing everyone in February 2012!

SWS Strategic Planning Taskforce

By Leslie Hossfeld, SWS Vice President and Taskforce Chair

In August 2011 the SWS Executive Council met to create a taskforce of SWS members that would address three critical areas for the organization: 1) review the SWS Mission Statement; 2) review the SWS bylaws; 3) and long range planning for SWS. After several requests to the membership for volunteers and nominations, a taskforce was created that reflected the diversity of the SWS membership (age, race, geography, rank, applied/academic). Taskforce members have been asked to commit to an 18 month time frame to reflect, examine and

determine if change is needed for SWS regarding these three areas of focus.

The structure of the taskforce is as follows: there are 11 taskforce members, of which 9 are appointed to subcommittees. (Taskforce members are Julia McQuillan, Marlese Durr, Barbara Risan, Cindy Anderson, Myra Marx Ferree, Hara Bastas, Zandria Robinson, Kecia Johnson, Judith Lorber, Mindy Fried and Carrie Smith.) Subcommittees are charged with the task of making recommendations to the taskforce on each of the sub areas. The mission statement subcommittee is chaired by Kecia Johnson; the bylaws subcommittee is chaired by Carrie Smith; and the long range planning subcommittee is chaired by Cindy Anderson. Subcommittees will meet throughout the year,

review documents, and report to the larger taskforce with recommendations. The larger taskforce reviews and debates the suggestions from the subcommittees, then makes recommendations to Council. Once Council reviews and debates the taskforce recommendations, Council then reports to the membership who is ultimately the body that votes on proposed changes.

The entire taskforce will convene in St. Petersburg in February and roll up their sleeves to begin tackling these three key areas of focus. Please do not hesitate contacting me during this entire process; we welcome suggestions, recommendations and input from the SWS membership. HossfeldL@uncw.edu

Welcoming You in Person

By Tiffany Taylor

The Welcome Committee is excited about the upcoming winter meetings in St Petersburg and the opportunity to organize the opening reception. Before we say too much about the reception, some background is in order.

For some years there has been discussion about making SWS more welcoming and more inclusive. Like any organization, networks get established and new folks may not always feel included. SWS already has the Hand Program, which matches new members in a one-on-one match to a more seasoned member. This program gives the new person a “go to” person so that they can know more about the organization and not feel so intimidated- and being at your first meeting can be intimidating! Even still, new members

are unlikely to have their Hand match at their hip the entire conference. Plus, we learned a long time ago having multiple mentors is better than one, so the same ought to hold here, right?

In response to these needs, the Membership Committee formed a work in progress, the Welcome [Sub]Committee. This group is a rotating group of volunteers who eagerly wanted to help new members feel welcomed and included at the meetings. We piloted this at the 2011 summer meetings with some success and we also learned a few lessons. This winter, we’ll roll out the new and improved model. First, members are encouraged to contact me, the Welcome Committee coordinator: Tiffany Taylor (ttaylo36@kent.edu) if this will be your first meeting. I am happy to answer questions and let you know what you might expect. While other members are organizing the Hand Program and the roommate match, I am happy to get you connected. Second, at the opening reception the

Welcome committee has a networking Bingo activity- coordinated by Tamara Smith- that will get us talking to one another. You can be fresh out of your first semester of graduate school or have spent the last several years in retirement, but we all have common ground as scholars, feminists, and members. This game will help us all meet members at every stage of their careers.

Lastly, the Welcome Committee will be everywhere at the meeting and banquet! New members or first meeting folks can look for flyers with brief biographies and photos of the committee members. Additionally, we’ll be wearing purple ribbons attached to our nametags. We are happy to answer questions, offer a seat at a session or meal, or talk to you about other ways you can be involved. We might have a few more things in store for the meetings, so stay tuned. Ultimately, members *are* SWS and we want you to feel welcome and to feel like this is your organization too.

SWS Auction! We Need You! Bring Items To The Winter Meeting!



SWS President-Elect Patricia Yancey Martin will be continuing the tradition of an SWS “Silent” Auction. The auction will be held in conjunction with the Saturday evening (2/4/2012) banquet. This year, the auction proceeds will be donated to **The Peacemakers Program of CASA (Community Action Stops Abuse)**. This group provides peace education and violence prevention activities for children with the goal to empower youth to live peaceful lives. But the success of this venture depends on you. We need your donations for the auction, and we need you to be present at the Winter

Meeting to bid on and hopefully purchase some of the treasures for yourself. This is definitely one event you won’t want to miss!

Wondering what to do with those unwanted or duplicate Christmas, Hanukkah, or Kwanzaa gifts? Save them for the 2012 SWS Auction (Remember, one person’s junk is another’s treasure.) Taking a trip over the holidays? Remember to pick up something special for the SWS auction when you hit the gift shops. Just published a new book? Consider donating an autographed copy for the SWS auction. Have a creative hobby? Make a one-of-a-kind item to donate! Through this auction we have discovered that SWS members have some amazing non-academic talents. Over the years we have seen the number of incredible homemade items increase, and these items nearly always result in a bidding war.

Bring your items to the SWS Winter Meeting in St. Petersburg. If you would like to donate to the auction but are unable to attend the meeting, please email Kristy Shih about arranging shipment. If you have any questions, please contact:

Auction Co-Chairs: Kristy Shih
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Mentoring Across Color Lines: Strategies for Successful Academic Careers

By Barbara J. Risman and Patricia Warren

This session is an out-growth of the Sister-to-Sister Task Force that began in 2002. The task force was born from the realization that as SWS membership became more diverse the organization needed to be concerned with the special challenges that feminist women of color faced when they accepted faculty positions at predominately white institutions. As co-chairs of that task force, we tried to envision how SWS could play a role in helping women of color succeed in the Academy. The task force co-sponsored a series of events where feminists talked across color lines, with the Association of Black Sociologists, and a variety of ASA sections. The Task force also created a special project within our SWS Mentoring Matching Program, so that women of color can request a mentor from their own background, in addition to someone who is working on similar scholarly endeavors. The Sister-to-Sister Task Force is now a committee and continues to keep work on developing strategies that make the Academy more

inclusive across race, ethnicity, sexual orientations and gender identities.

When Patricia Martin asked us to envision a plenary that would follow the goals we originally had for the Sister-to-Sister committee, we decided to focus on mentoring across color lines. We want to talk across racial boundaries, but also across the boundaries of academic seniority. How do young feminist scholars find the right mentors, and approach them effectively? How do senior feminist scholars mentor those with whom they share economic, ethnic and racial similarities and those they do not? We focus on the really important career transitions, tenure and promotion, to Associate and to Full Professor. Each of the panelists will speak briefly about her experiences being mentored and as a mentor, and any special issues that they faced. The conversation will explicitly deal with issues of sexuality, under-represented status, and dual-career struggles. Many of these issues are hard to own as one's own, and bringing them up publically can be intimidating, especially in a session when there are SWS members at all ranks in the room. To assure that the really hard questions get asked, we will take questions in advance, so watch for the request on the listserv. We will also take questions written on index cards at the beginning

of the session itself. The panelists will address strategies for success as well as how these strategies vary across academic institutions, racial/ethnic backgrounds as well as sexual and gender identities.

We have invited panelists from different types of academic institutions, with varying personal and administrative experiences. We have asked them to talk about personal experiences, and for those with administrative experience, what they have learned about how feminist mentoring can help lead to a successful tenure and promotion process. The panelists, in alphabetical order include Shirley Hill, Professor and Director of Graduate Studies, University of Kansas, Judith Howard, Professor and Dean of Social Sciences at the University of Washington, Marla Kohlman, Professor, Kenyon College, and Patricia Warren, Assistant Professor at Florida State University. They represent experiences at liberal arts teaching colleges and Research I institutions, within sociology departments, and in related interdisciplinary fields such as African American Studies, Women and Gender Studies, and Criminology. The session will be moderated by Barbara Risman, Professor and Head, Sociology at University of Illinois at Chicago.

Sister to Sister



The Sister to Sister committee now has its own listserv, for all interested members of SWS. If you're interested in joining, please email the StS Co-Chair: Vrushali Patil, vrushali.patil@gmail.com.

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The Menstrual Cycle: A Feminist Lifespan Perspective

Prepared by the Society for Menstrual Cycle Research | www.menstruationresearch.org

I. Introduction

A. Why Menstruation Matters

The Menstrual Cycle is one of *the* most important biological differences between females and males, one that has been used – in many contexts — to justify discrimination against women and girls. Thus, the more clearly we understand the biological and social significance of the menstrual cycle for both women and men, the better we understand the fundamental arrangements of human society. Challenging the shame and secrecy surrounding the menstrual cycle, encourages *embodied consciousness*, or a more meaningful and complex appreciation of bodies across the lifespan. Interdisciplinary menstrual cycle research, especially studies that explore the psychosocial dimensions of menstruation in diverse cultural settings, is an emerging subfield.

Some menstrual activists and menstrual cycle researchers refer to “menstruators” instead of women when referring to those who menstruate. This linguistic choice locates menstruation beyond the confines of gender as socially constructed and expresses solidarity with women who do not menstruate (due to illness, age or some aspect of their physiology) and transgender men and genderqueer individuals who do in spite of their gender identity. Refusing to assume who does and does not menstruate is one way of challenging the rigid gender binary that perpetuates privilege and oppression (Bobel, 2010).

B. How the Menstrual Cycle Works

Most menstrual cycles are 21-35 days long but variability is common after menarche (the first period) and also before menopause. Each menstrual cycle is created by a unique egg and its surrounding cells; these produce hormones under careful feedback control by brain and pituitary hormones. A usual menstrual cycle begins with 2-6 days of vaginal blood loss (called a “period” or “flow”) as the uterine lining is shed. Whole period blood loss averages 8 soaked regular menstrual products (40 ml) (Hallberg, Hogdahl, Nilsson, & Rybo, 1966). Despite cultural concepts of regularity, a third of women, once a year have a period two weeks early or late (Munster, Schmidt and Helm, 1992). From low levels during flow, estrogen rises to a midcycle peak over 9-20 days. Next, a pituitary Luteinizing Hormone (LH) peak triggers the release of an egg (ovulation). Following ovulation, progesterone production rises steeply while estrogen decreases minimally (Nielsen, Brixen, Bouillon, & Mosekilde, 1990) until both decrease at the next flow. The luteal (post-ovulation) phase normally lasts 10-14 days (Vollman, 1977) but ovulatory disturbances are common (Bedford 2010).

C. Menstrual Attitudes & Representations

Though menstruation is a biological reality, culture-bound values shape its meaning and management. Though there is not a comprehensive cross-cultural comparison of menstruation, anthropologists have reported extensively on various cultural practices surrounding menstruation ranging from severe social restriction to special respect and privilege for menstruating women (Mead, 1949; Shuttle & Redgrove, 2005; Knight, 1991). In most cultures, menarche (the onset of menstruation) is viewed as differentiating males and females. Though uncommon, artistic and cultural menstrual references exist, such as bleeding wounds (in crucifixion or Dracula) (Mulvey-Roberts, 1998) or wolf bites in fairy tales (Bettelheim, 1976). In cinema, as early as 1966, *To Sir with Love* used a menstrual detail to test the protagonist’s manhood, and more recently *Superbad* (2007) and *No Strings Attached* (2011) offered more subtle explorations of male responses to menstrual encounters. Meanwhile, novelists such as William Faulkner, Joyce Carol Oates, Erica Jong and Philip Roth and Stephen King (who exploited menstruation in the horror genre), included menstrual content. Artists such as Vanessa Tiegs and Judy Chicago used menstrual blood and menstrual products, respectively, to challenge menstrual silence and secrecy.

In contemporary advertising venues, menstruation is most often coupled with dominant and recurring themes of secrecy and concern for restrictions on physical and social activity. In advertisements for drugs marketed for menstrual discomfort, the menstrual cycle is treated as a “hygienic crisis” (Brumberg, 1997), a medical condition, and a “problem” or malady requiring treatment (Tavris, 1992; Angier, 1999; Ussher, 2006; Vostral, 2008). One recent study, however, suggests that teen girls use their menstrual experiences as a “source of power” in their interactions with other girls as well as boys (Fingerson, 2006).

Menstrual taboos shape many religious and secular practices across the globe (Delaney, et al, 1988; Knight, 1991; Laws, 1990; Van de Walle & Renne, 2001). For example, certain religious traditions regard menstrual fluid as ritually impure and thus, the menstruating woman is banned from religious rites, sex, and/or food preparation (Delaney, et al, 1988; Douglas, 1966; Houppert, 1999; Knight, 1991, Mendlinger & Cwikel, 2006; Stein & Kim, 2009). Theorists, including psychoanalysts Freud (1962) and Horney (1967) tried to account for the existence of menstrual taboos; the former claimed that menstrual taboos were an attempt to control women

while the latter contended that male fear of menstruation had roots in castration anxiety. Some feminists critique the uses of taboo to disenfranchise women (Bobel, 2010; Delaney, et al, 1988) but not all menstrual prohibitions are equally disadvantageous and women assert their agency in the particular cultural and religious contexts in which various menstrual practices are embedded (Buckley & Gottlieb, 1988; Shuttle and Redgrove, 2005). For example, In *Genesis* Rachel manipulated a menstrual taboo to defeat her hated father Laban when she claimed to have her period (“the way of women is upon me”) so that he would not search her belongings. Menstrual myths endure, such as the fear that menstruating women attract bears, in spite of research to the contrary (Rogers, et al, 1991).

II. Early Experiences of Menstruation

Menarche, or first menstruation, is one of the last pubertal changes, occurring after breast bud and pubic hair development. Menarche can occur as early as age 8 and as late as 17 (Hilliard, 2002). The development of full reproductive maturity, however, takes several years. With respect to girls in western culture, early menstruation can be challenging for girls; some experience negative outcomes regarding sexuality and body image (e.g., Mendle, Turkheimer, & Emery, 2007; Posner, 2006). Whether girls are experiencing early puberty related to early menarche is a controversial issue (Dorn & Rotenstein, 2004). The average age of menarche in both the United States and Europe is 12.5 years, and has not changed in 50 years; African American girls menstruate about six months earlier than European American girls (Steingraber, 2007). A trend of earlier menarche is evident in newly industrialized countries (Steingraber, 2007). In Western culture, girls have mixed, but mostly negative feelings about menstruation: they see it as a sign of growing up but are also embarrassed about it (Stubbs, 2008). Preparation leads to more positive attitudes and experiences (e.g., McPherson & Korfine, 2004). For example, supportive, engaged mothers who react in a matter-of-fact way can buffer widespread negative cultural messages about menstruation (Lee, 2008). However, most educational materials and menstrual product advertising focus exclusively on keeping clean and hiding menstruation (Erchull, Chrisler, Gorman, & Johnston-Robledo, 2002; Simes & Berg, 2001). Girls who see menstruation as a barrier to a sexualized self-presentation, highly valued in Western culture, are likely to see these products as especially attractive (Stubbs & Johnston-Robledo, in press).

III. Menstrual Management

A. Menstrual Care

Mainstream menstrual products – commercial pads and tampons typically made of a blend of pesticide-treated cotton and rayon (wood pulp)— raise both environmental and health concerns (Bobel, 2010). The average menstruator uses approximately 11,000 menstrual products (pads, tampons) over the lifespan and thus produces 250-300 lbs of garbage (Stein and Kim, 2009). Tampon use is linked to Toxic Shock Syndrome (Berkley, Hightower, Broome and Reingold, 1987, Kehrberg, et al, 1981, Tierno and Hanna, 1989 and Vostral, forthcoming). TSS develops when the bacteria *Staph. Aureus* produces a toxin that rapidly overwhelms the immune system sending the woman into acute circulatory collapse (CDC, 2005). Half of all known cases of Toxic Shock are in women using tampons (FDA, 2009). The FDA recommends using the lowest absorbency for one’s flow, changing tampons at least every 4 to 8 hours and alternating pads with tampons to reduce TSS risk. Though rumors do circulate about the biohazardous contents of tampons, there is no evidence of asbestos in tampons and it has been estimated that dioxin (a byproduct of tampon and pad bleaching processes) exposure is negligible. (FDA, 2009). Concerns about conventional products lead some menstruators to opt instead for reusable cloth pads, menstrual cups, sponges and/or tampons made only of organic cotton.

B. Cycle-stopping Contraception (“menstrual suppression”)

Hormonal contraceptives (“the Pill”), traditionally taken 21 of 28 days, stop ovarian cycling and alter endometrial and cervical changes needed for fertility. Marketing the “choice” of no periods, pharmaceutical companies have touted continuous hormonal contraception (Johnston-Robledo, Barnack, Wares, 2006, Hitchcock, 2008, Gunson, 2010, Mamo and Fosket, 2009). Hormonal contraceptives are promoted as more “natural” by pharmaceutical companies, citing that hunter-gatherer women had fewer menstruations (Jones, 2011). However, in the populations referred to, hormone exposure was low due to nursing and/or under nutrition, both of which can cause menstruation to temporarily halt, rather than high, as is the case with modern drugs (Hitchcock & Prior, 2004). These products have high rates of unpredictable spotting and flow, especially with initial use. Furthermore, cycle stopping contraception exploits menstrual-related stigma and promotes menstrual concealment norms, and may be particularly attractive to young women who have not yet developed comfort with menstrual management and are socialized to see their flow as merely a nuisance. Cycle-stopping contraceptive products medicalize menstruation, are likely to lead to earlier initiation and prolonged use of hormonal contraception, and normalize replacing a biological function with a pharmaceutical product to meet

social expectations of menstrual concealment. Long-term safety data, especially for the breast and in adolescents, are lacking (Hitchcock, 2004).

IV. Problems attributed to the Menstrual Cycle

A. Premenstrual Syndrome (PMS) is the repeated occurrence of behavioral, physical, and mood symptoms severe enough to impact a woman's social and work-related functioning during the premenstrual/post-ovulatory phase of the menstrual cycle (Taylor, 2005). Evidence-based treatment for moderately severe PMS includes a combination of personal and environmental stress management, dietary awareness, nutritional supplements, and exercise (Taylor & Colino, 2002; Taylor, 2005).

B. Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD) is a severe form of PMS affecting less than 8% of menstruating women, and may be a cyclic form of depression (Huo et al, 2007; Klatzkin et al, 2010); Taylor, 2006). PMDD is an accepted diagnosis by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration that has approved newer antidepressants for its treatment—it is not accepted by the International Classification of Diseases (Mintzes 2006; European Agency 2004). Critics argue that labeling women with PMS and PMDD individualizes problems as merely psychological. Ultimately, they assert, these labels hide the external sources of symptom expression that arise from a host of situations, such as stressful work environments, social relationships, poverty, or living in unsafe neighborhoods (Caplan, 1995, 2004; Offman & Kleinplatz, 2004).

C. Other Menstrual Cycle Concerns include heavy flow, cramps, anovulatory androgen excess (polycystic ovary syndrome or PCOS) and irregular, absent or long cycles. **Heavy menstruation** is flow more than 6 days and/or more than 16 soaked "regular" size menstrual products (80 ml blood loss] per period). Heavy flow is more common in adolescence, perimenopause and in those of any age with higher estrogen levels and ovulatory disturbances (Seltzer, Benjamin, & Deutsch, 1990; Moen, Kahn, Bjerve, & Halvorsen, 2004). **Cramps** occur normally in teenagers and can improve following childbirth. They are most often effectively treated with short-term, high dose over-the-counter ibuprofen. **Anovulatory androgen excess** (AAE/PCOS) occurs in about 4-10% of women (Talbot, Wild, Remsberg, Gibson, & Casoglos, 1999). It is defined by clinical evidence of high male hormones (testosterone) that presents as acne, facial hair, oily skin and hair and head hair loss), lack of regular egg release, and long or absent cycles (Pedersen, Brar, Faris, & Corenblum, 2007). It runs in families, causes a marked increased risk for insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes and fertility problems, and is associated with obesity and depression. **Far apart cycles** (cycles 36-180 days apart), irregular or absent menstruation (no flow for 6 months) are relatively rare—less than 6% of women ages 16-35 experience these in a year (Munster, Helm, & Schmidt, 1992); younger women, those under emotional or nutritional stress, and/or who over-exercise are more at risk (Bedford 2010).

V. Rethinking Menstruation

A. Menstrual Activism

Activists from across the feminist spectrum have challenged the menstrual status quo of shame, secrecy and silence, through visual and performance art, ritual, humor, direct action, informational workshops, the production and dissemination of zines (independent, small scale publishing), the use of websites, blogs and other social media, as well as research which normalizes the menstrual cycle as a healthy bodily process (Bobel, 2010; Kissling, 2006). Some menstrual activists celebrate the menstrual cycle as a source of feminine power and connection while others resist an essentialist framing of menstruation in which a biological process is conflated with a socially constructed category. Instead, such activists target the global menstrual care industry while promoting the use of environmentally-sustainable, safer and less costly alternatives (Bobel, 2010). This activism has not gone unnoticed; the *Vital Sign* campaign from the American Academy of Pediatrics (2006) reframes menstruation as a key indicator of girls' and women's overall health.

B. Fertility Awareness and the Menstrual Cycle

A woman who monitors and charts her menstrual cycle events to determine her phases of fertility and infertility is practicing fertility awareness (FA). Women can use FA to prevent or achieve pregnancy and/or to monitor gynecological and general health. Technical and contextual differences exist between the many variants of FA based methods of birth control (sexualityandu.ca). Methods vary in their focus on signs of fertility. FA methods, which do not prevent STI's, are gaining credibility and attention in comprehensive discussions of contraceptive choices for women (Eldridge, 2010).

C. Body Literacy and Informed Choice Making

Body literacy is the self-knowledge acquired by women who learn to observe, chart and interpret scientifically proven signs of fertility and infertility - their individual menstrual cycle events - together with other health and wellness observations. Body literacy helps a woman to understand how her health is connected to her menstrual cycle, and thus make informed decisions about her health care (Wershler, 2005) and resist institutional control of her body, for example, vis a vis pharmaceutical companies (Bobel, 2010).

VI. Perimenopause and Menopause

A. Definitions and “Symptoms”

Female reproductive hormones have a unique lifecycle—they are low in childhood, rapidly increase during puberty and maintain mean high levels throughout young-mid adulthood. In perimenopause, estrogen levels become erratic, their mean is higher than in young adulthood, and progesterone levels become lower (Prior 1998). Perimenopause refers to the whole, highly variable transition to menopause that begins one year following final flow (Prior and Hitchcock 2011). During both perimenopause and menopause, some women experience night sweats and/or hot flashes (vasomotor symptoms), sleep problems, decreased interest in sex and/or migraines.

B. Social Constructions and Dimensions of Peri/Menopause

Because biomedical discourse regards menopause as a “deficiency disease,” women in the United States can find it difficult to resist the power of pervasive negative definitions of this normal transition (Lyons and Griffin 2003). Feminist scholars counter that menopause is a broad, biosocial transition that individual women may see as positive or neutral (Dillaway 2005a, 2005b). While some women view menopause as the dawn of a better and more carefree life-stage, free from the burdens of pregnancy, menstruation, and contraception, others may find the transition fairly inconsequential (Ballard, Elston, & Gabe, 2005; Trethewey 2001). Others may still define menopause negatively when negotiating symptoms (e.g., hot flashes/flushes). The negative view of menopause is linked to gender norms (about women’s physical attractiveness and youthfulness) and certain reproductive experiences and choices, such as delayed childbearing or infertility (Dillaway 2005b; Lyons and Griffin 2003). Nonetheless, when social class, racial, and other cultural differences are studied, great variation exists across groups of women as they think about menopause (Avis & Crawford, 2008). For instance, while African American and lower-income women report higher rates of menopausal symptoms and/or more intense symptoms when surveyed, research also suggests that they report more positive (or at least more neutral) attitudes towards menopause than their European American counterparts (Green & Santoro, 2009; Nixon, Mansfield, Kittell, & Faulkner, 2001). The reasons for these variations are only partially understood.

C. A Woman-Centered, Critical Approach to Perimenopause and Menopause Therapy

Perimenopause and menopause are hormonally very different, thus menopause therapies may not be suitable/safe for perimenopause, and no study in perimenopause has shown that menopausal type hormone therapy (HT) or the Pill improve symptoms (Casper, Dodin, Reid, & Study Investigators, 1997). Knowing the course and variability of perimenopause, having social support, maintaining exercise and a good diet are helpful. Use of hormone therapy (HT) for menopause (aka “postmenopause”) by women without vasomotor symptoms does not prevent but actually increases risks for heart attacks, stroke, blood clots, breast cancer and memory problems. HT does reduce osteoporosis/fractures (WHI 2002; Anderson et al., 2004) and vasomotor symptoms (MacLennan, Broadbent, Lester, & Moore, 2004). Vitamin D, regular exercise, community involvement and maintaining a healthy weight likely prevents osteoporosis, memory problems and heart disease. Vaginal dryness, due to menopause, can be treated with regular, gentle sex and vaginal non-hormonal or, if still necessary, very low dose, vaginal estrogen therapy (Speroff, 2003).

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2011 Feminist Activism Award Winner

[Editor's note: inadvertently, this did not appear with other award reports in the previous issue of Network News. We apologize to the awardee.]

The SWS Feminist Activism Committee is pleased to announce this year's winner, Dr. Laura Kramer. Laura is currently Professor Emerita at Montclair State University. Laura has demonstrated a long-term commitment to activist work that has supported women's lives in academia, especially through her efforts with the National Science Foundation (NSF) ADVANCE efforts. Prof. Kramer served as Program Director of the NSF ADVANCE program from 2007-2008.

Nancy Steffen-Fluhr reminds us that Laura is a pioneer – she has been an advocate for gender equity, multi-cultural scholarship, and curriculum reforms since the 1980s. She started working on gender equity primarily through teaching and in the state of New Jersey, and more recently moved to national efforts through the National Science Foundation and on-going consulting work.

Another nominator, Jennifer Sheridan states: "For several years, I have watched Dr. Kramer as she fearlessly



Andrea Miller presents the 2011 Feminist Activism Award to Laura Kramer. Photo by Tracy Ore.

prods institutional leaders to be bold, to take action, and to make the changes necessary to improve the status of women at their universities. Dr. Kramer is firm and direct in her discussions with high-level university leadership, in one instance suggesting search committee membership and direction for a high-level administrative position. Her activism in this regard was a success, as evidenced by the eventual membership of that committee."

As a forty-year member of SWS, Laura Kramer has served in many capacities—as graduate student during the founding of SWS to the many

committees and positions (most recently as treasurer) that she has held. It is with our pleasure that the Feminist Activism Committee congratulates Dr. Laura Kramer as this year's recipient.

Please think about hosting Dr. Kramer to your campus during the 2012-2013 Academic Year. As part of her award, Dr. Kramer will visit two campuses to discuss feminist activism. The call for applications is on page 22.

For further information, please contact Dr. Dani MacCartney at dmaccartney12@webster.edu.

American Sociological Association Wikipedia Initiative



ASA is on a mission:

- * to deploy the power of Wikipedia to represent the discipline of sociology as fully and as accurately as possible.
- * to promote the free teaching of sociology worldwide.

All ASA members are encouraged to participate by adding new entries and enhancing existing ones with more complete and accurate information with references. This is an especially exciting initiative for teachers and students who can make updating or creating Wikipedia entries part of coursework.

For further information, please see http://www.asanet.org/about/wiki_Initiative.cfm.

Members' Bookshelf



Find these and many more on the Members' Bookshelf, on the website under Resources.

Analyzing Gender, Intersectionality, and Multiple Inequalities: Global, Transnational and Local Contexts, edited by **Esther Ngan-ling Chow**, **Marcia Texler Segal**, and Lin Tan. Emerald Press, 2011.

Families: A Social Class Perspective, by **Shirley Hill**. Sage, 2012.

The African American Struggle for Secondary Schooling, 1940-1980: Closing the Graduation Gap, by John Rury and **Shirley Hill**. Teachers College Press, 2011.

Aging Our Way: Lessons for Living from 85 and Beyond, by **Meika Loe**. Oxford University Press, 2011.

Catheters, Slurs, and Pick-up Lines: Professional Intimacy in Hospital Nursing, by **Lisa Ruchti**. Temple University Press, 2012.

2011 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship Winners

[Editor's note: inadvertently, this did not appear with other award reports in the previous issue of Network News. We apologize to the awardees.]

The Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship is given annually to a Ph.D. student in sociology who began her or his college career at a two-year community or technical college. The 2011 selection committee consisted of Denise Copelton, Myra Marx Ferree, James McKeever, Irene Padavic, and Peter Stein. This year the committee is pleased to present an honorable mention award, in addition to the winner.

The honorable mention winner receives complimentary membership in Sociologists for Women in Society (SWS) and the Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP), and registration and banquet tickets for the SWS, SSSP, and the American Sociological Association (ASA) summer meetings.

Our honorable mention winner is **Rose Buckelew**. A first-generation college student, Ruth is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Sociology at the Duke University. She attended Cypress

Community College in CA, before transferring to California State University, Fullerton to complete her Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Liberal Studies where she graduated summa cum laude. At Duke, Rose serves as co-chair of the Latino/a Graduate Student Association, actively mentors undergraduate Latinos, started a literacy program for Latino migrant children, and helps coordinate a Race and Ethnicity Workshop. Her dissertation uses interviews with and observations of gambling addiction counselors, lottery administrators and gamblers to examine how counselors interpret clients' behavior through race, class, and gender stereotypes. After completing her dissertation, Rose intends to work at a state-supported university where she can combine her passion for critical research with a commitment to sharing with her students the emancipating power of sociology.

The 2011 Scholarship carries a stipend of \$3500 from SWS, and \$300 from SSSP, to be used to support the pursuit of graduate studies, as well as one-year student memberships in SWS and SSSP. Additionally, the winner receives travel support and complimentary registration and banquet/reception tickets for the summer meetings of SWS, SSSP and ASA.

We are delighted to award the 2011 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship to **Elizabeth Seton Mignacca**.

A Ph.D. candidate in Sociology at Syracuse University, Elizabeth began her college career at Onondaga Community College before transferring to Syracuse University to earn a Bachelor's degree in American Studies and a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration. A first-generation college student who struggled to combine full-time work, commuting, and caring for her ailing parents, Elizabeth wrote in her application essay how Beth's work in social gerontology helped her make sociological sense of her own experience as a caregiver. Elizabeth's deep interest in class inequalities in higher education informs her scholarship and career goal of becoming a community college educator. Her dissertation examines first-generation college students who have completed a Ph.D. She explores the representational strategies these working-class students use to explain their doctoral education experience. For her outstanding research and commitment to community college teaching, we are pleased to recognize Elizabeth Seton Mignacca as the 2011 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship recipient.

2012 Call for Applications for Campus Visits

Distinguished Feminist Lecturer, Christine Williams, and Feminist Activism Winner, Laura Kramer

Due March 1, 2012

During the 2012-2013 academic year, each award winner will visit two campuses. These campus visits are intended to celebrate and enhance feminist scholarship and social activism on college campuses.

The **Distinguished Feminist Lecturer** visits campuses that are isolated,

rural, located away from major metropolitan areas, bereft of the resources needed to invite guest speakers, and/or are characterized by hostility to feminist scholarship. Applications should be submitted to: Shannon N Davis sdavis@gmu.edu

The **Feminist Activism Awardee** visits campuses with departments with a focus on feminist activism, social movements, sociological practice, and/or activist research. Applications should be submitted to: Danielle (Dani) MacCartney dmacartney12@webster.edu

The selection committee will look especially favorably on campuses that are committed to gaining the widest possible audience for these visits. This may be demonstrated by evidence of

- collaboration with other departments and programs on campus
- multiple-campus cooperation
- community partnerships

SWS will pay at least a portion of the expenses for the two site visits; institutions should not let resource scarcity prevent them from applying. (See the detailed reimbursement levels and guidelines.) SWS awards the Distinguished Feminist Lecturer and the Feminist Activism Awardee a one-time honorarium of \$1000.

Additional Information (information to be included in the application and guidelines for arranging and funding visits) is on the SWS website, www.soc-women.org

ELECTION RESULTS

Submitted by Denise A. Segura, Chair, SWS Nominations Committee

The Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the results of our recent annual election. The following individuals will assume their new positions at the organization's upcoming winter meeting:

OFFICERS

President-Elect	Bandana Purkayastha
Treasurer-Elect	Wanda Rushing
Secretary	Trina Smith
Student Representative	Veronica Montes

COMMITTEE CHAIRS OR CO-CHAIRS

Academic Justice	Bernice Pescosolido
Awards	Marjukka Ollilainen
Discrimination	Roberta Villalon
International	Minjeong Kim
Sister to Sister	Kris de Welde

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Academic Justice	Anastasia Prokos
Awards	Shannon Davis
Career Development	Orit Avishai
Membership	Katie Acosta & Catherine Connell
Nominations	Rebecca Bach & Verta Taylor
Publications	Marlese Durr & Jennifer Reich

The Nomination Committee thanks every SWSer who agreed to stand for election. We all have numerous responsibilities in our professional and personal lives. Members who were willing to take on additional responsibilities for the sake of SWS provide an essential service to our organization. Thanks also to everyone who participated in the election by suggesting people to run, reading the candidates' statements, and voting.

It is important to acknowledge the hard work of the members of the Nominations Committee: Orit Avishai, Judith Howard, Shirley Jackson (ex officio), Adina Nack, and Kristen Schilt. Thanks also to Jessica Holden Sherwood and Rachel Weisz-Smith at the Executive Office who coordinated the online voting process.

Feminist Activism Reaches American Campuses via Ghana

The 2010 Feminist Activism Award winner, Dr. Akosua Adomako Ampofo, made two campus visits in November 2011. These are the reports from the hosts. To apply for a visit from the 2011 winner, please see the Call on the previous page.

From Nancy Mezey, Monmouth State University:

Dr. Adomako Ampofo's visit was really wonderful. Her day began with a talk to approximately 200 undergraduate students, as well as faculty, staff, and administrators from a multitude of disciplines. Her talk focused on her own experiences as a feminist activist, how she became involved in activism, how sociology informs her activism, and how she helped push forward an anti-domestic violence bill in Ghana.

After her talk, Dr. Adomako Ampofo met with a small group of faculty, graduate students, and staff to discuss strategies for activism. She discussed how many of us in academia are activists. However, because we do not think of ourselves in that light, or because we do not focus our activism around one or two particular causes, we tend to lose sight of the activist work we are doing.

The evening concluded with a delightful dinner in which members of the Sociology Club were able to enjoy an informal discussion with our guest speaker. Dr. Adomako Ampofo has given many of us a way of thinking about focusing and using our feminist and sociological sensibilities and studies in ways that can push a feminist agenda further in the academy and in the larger community. And she has opened the door for us to create a venue for our students to be more connected with her institute in Ghana.

Thank you to SWS for providing us with this unique and wonderful opportunity.

From Jenny Pearson, Wichita State University:

Wichita State University is Kansas' only urban-serving state university, with approximately 15,000 students and just under 200 sociology majors. While we consistently fill all three of the gender courses offered in our department, we struggle to get students on our campus to move from an academic interest in social justice and social issues to taking action in their everyday lives. Therefore, it was with great enthusiasm that we planned Dr. Adomako Ampofo's visit. While here, she made three presentations

The first informal talk was a luncheon with 17 student leaders from various departments and student organizations. During this session, Akosua discussed what activism is (writing to your senators or taking collective action) and what it isn't ("consumer activism" or buying products where a portion of the proceeds go to a selected cause). Students also shared some of the ways that they have tried to make change on campus (i.e., awareness efforts such as hosting a Love Your Body Day event) and in Kansas (such as attending a protest for women's reproductive rights at the state capital).

The second talk occurred Monday evening when Akosua presented to students, faculty/staff, and members of the community. The title of the talk was: Responding to Violence: Local Activism in a Global Context. The topic of the talk was very timely nationally, given the emerging Penn State scandal, and locally, given the City of Topeka had recently voted to

decriminalize misdemeanor domestic violence cases due to budget cuts. During her talk, Akosua focused on her experiences working in the movement to pass domestic violence legislation in Ghana. She reminded the audience that violence against women is a global problem, citing child abuse and intimate partner violence rates in the United States and Ghana and introducing audience members to the fact that the U.S. is one of the only industrialized nations who still refuses to sign the CEDAW. The evening talk was well attended, and several students and community members remained after the talk for a chance to meet Dr. Adomako Ampofo. We were very pleased that coverage of the talk made the front page of our campus newspaper.

The final talk occurred on Tuesday morning. Dr. Adomako Ampofo met with a small group of faculty over breakfast to discuss activism through research. She discussed how she integrates activism into her teaching and research, and mentioned that University of Ghana is perhaps the only university that requires all students to take a course in gender studies, a policy she helped to institute. Overall, Dr. Adomako Ampofo's visit to Wichita State inspired students, faculty, and staff by reminding us all of how important every individual is in creating social change.



SWS Feminist Activism Awardee Akosua Adomako Ampofo - center, in vest - visits with faculty at Monmouth University. Photo courtesy of Jim Reme, Monmouth University.

Globalizing Gender & Society Governance, Globalizing SWS

by Joya Misra

My first few months as editor of *Gender & Society* have been exciting and intellectually, deeply enjoyable. It is wonderful to see how much amazing feminist scholarship is being produced – and submitted to the journal. One of my priorities, already begun this first year of my term, is to globalize *Gender & Society* governance further.

Gender & Society has long had a wonderful international advisory board, in addition to its North American based editorial board. Last summer, Publications Committee gave *Gender & Society* permission to merge the two boards into one editorial board,

peopled with scholars from around the

world. *Gender & Society* is one of the top feminist journals worldwide – and receives submissions from around the globe. Yet, scholarship also differs based on regional norms; to publish more global scholarship will require engaging with scholars in their home regions, building greater familiarity with feminist social science norms (as practiced in different regions), and drawing in more scholars outside North America as reviewers and editorial board members.

We are deeply excited to have three of our international editorial board members attending the Winter 2012 meetings, with financial support from the organization as well as the journal. The invited scholars will bring considerable breadth and depth to our editorial board's discussions, and to the SWS meeting as a whole. Mary García Castro,

at the Catholic University in Salvador in Brazil, is a recognized leader in Latin American feminist scholarship of work, family, and migration, with appointments at UNESCO, FLACSO, and the Global Commission on International Migration. Rebecca Dobash lectures at the University of Manchester's School of Law on violence and the policies and interventions relating to it, and has won numerous criminology awards for her comparative studies on domestic violence, violent offenders, and gender and incarceration. The 2010 honoree for the SWS Feminism Activism Award, Akosua Ampofo has followed her groundbreaking leadership at the University of Ghana-Legon's Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy by taking over the Directorship of its Institute of African Studies.

We are hoping that SWS members help engage with our international

members, and draw them into the larger conversations we

have about further globalizing our wonderful organization. To that end, Castro, Dobash, and Ampofo – along with others – will be taking part in a panel entitled "A Dialogue on Globalizing Feminist Organizations and Activism," which is provisionally planned for Friday, February 3rd, at 5 pm. This panel is co-sponsored by the International Committee of SWS, chaired by Clare Weber. We hope to get a lively and engaged conversation going at this panel, where we plan to address questions of how we think about feminist organizations in a more global and transnational framework, and how we work together to strengthen understandings among global feminist activists and scholars.



SWS Network News

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Material for publication (including advertisements) should be submitted to SWS at the below email/address.

Deadlines for submission:
Summer - May 15; Fall - September 15;
Winter - November 15; Spring - March 15.
Fee schedule for advertisements: Full page-\$200; Half-page-\$100; Quarter-page or less-\$50; Job announcements-\$25.
Invoices will be sent after announcements appear.

Change of Address? Members, please log on at www.socwomen.org/members to update your address.

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Honor your favorite Feminist Scholar, Activist, or Mentor by nominating her or him for an SWS Award

Nominations are due by March 1, 2012. Additional information is on the SWS website, www.socwomen.org

The **SWS Mentoring Award** was established in 1990 to honor an SWS member who is an outstanding feminist mentor. While the word “mentoring” is commonly used to describe a faculty-student relationship, this award has shown the breadth of ways that feminists do mentoring. We encourage potential nominators to consider the wide range of people who have mentored them and to recognize the diversity of their locations and practice.

Feminist mentoring includes not only anticipating needs and providing concrete guidance and feedback for students and junior colleagues, but also:

- compassion and guidance with regard to feminist concerns,
- helping students and colleagues (junior and senior) to write and effectively communicate as authors, activists and teachers;
- providing support, strategies and models for balancing family and work;
- offering gendered understandings of institutional biases and strategies for overcoming them;
- building formal and informal institutions that support feminist interests (personal, career research, and teaching);
- a philosophy and practice of inclusion inside academia, especially with those most marginalized.

The nominee must be a current member of SWS.

Nominations should be submitted to: Michael Kimmel michael_kimmel@yahoo.com AND Kum-Kum Bhavnani bhavnani@soc.ucsb.edu

The **Feminist Activism Award** is presented annually to an SWS member who has notably and consistently used sociology to improve conditions for women in society. The award honors outstanding feminist advocacy efforts that embody the goal of service to women and have identifiably improved women’s lives.

The recipient of the Feminist Activism Award should be an SWS member who has used sociology to better the lives of women. The individual is honored for their work as an activist, rather than as a function of her or his place of employment or academic achievements. Thus, recipients could include volunteers, non-volunteers, academicians, and private/public sector employees. The emphasis of this award is on advocacy and outreach efforts.

The award winner will visit two campuses during 2013-2014 academic year to share their expertise and experiences (lectures, workshops, or training sessions) of feminist activism. SWS and the host campuses are responsible for the funding of these visits. (Application guidelines for campus visits are available in a separate call.)

The nominee must be a current member of SWS.

Nominations should be submitted to: Danielle (Dani) MacCartney dmaccartney12@webster.edu

The **SWS Distinguished Feminist Lectureship** was founded in 1985 as a way of (a) recognizing our members whose scholarship employs a feminist perspective and (b) making this feminist scholar available to campuses that are isolated, rural, bereft of the resources needed to invite guest speakers, or characterized by hostility to feminist scholarship. A key goal of the program is to provide a feminist voice on campuses where such a perspective is unusual or unwelcome.

The Lecturer will present her/his lecture at the summer 2013 SWS meeting and on two U. S. campuses during the 2013-2014 academic year. SWS and the host campuses are responsible for the funding of these visits. (Application guidelines for campus visits are available in a separate call.) An article-length version of the lecture will be published in *Gender & Society*.

Nominees need not be a current SWS member, but must contribute to SOCIOLOGICAL feminist scholarship

Nominations should be submitted to: Shannon N Davis sdaviso@gmu.edu

Call For Papers

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) invites submissions for the 62nd Annual Meeting in Denver, CO, August 16-18, 2012. The program theme is The Art of Activism. The submission deadline is January 31, 2012. Questions relating to the program should be directed to Program Committee Co-Chairs: Heather Dalmage (hdalmage@roosevelt.edu) and Tanya Saunders (saunderstanya@gmail.com). When sending an e-mail, place SSSP in the subject line.

SSSP (www.sssp1.org) is an interdisciplinary community of scholars, practitioners, advocates, and students interested in the application of critical,

scientific, and humanistic perspectives to the study of vital social problems. If you are involved in scholarship or action in pursuit of a just society nationally or internationally, you belong in the SSSP. You will meet others engaged in research to find the causes and consequences of social problems, as well as others seeking to apply existing scholarship to the formulation of social policies.

Funding

The Society for the Study of Social Problems (SSSP) is soliciting applications for the 2012 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship. Persons identified as Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian/Asian-American, Native

Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, or American Indian or Alaska Native and accepted into an accredited doctoral program in any one of the social and/or behavioral sciences are invited to apply for the \$12,000 Racial/Ethnic Minority Graduate Scholarship. Applications are due by and must be received no later than February 3, 2012. Applicants will be notified of the results by July 16, 2012. All applicants must be a current member and a citizen or permanent resident of the United States when applying. For further information and an application, visit www.sssp1.org. Contact Chair Tyrone Forman with all questions at tyforman@stanford.edu.

SWS Newsmakers

A sampling of our members' recent accomplishments — including media appearances, awards, and more. Please see the Newsmakers page of the website (under Media) for the "clickable" version.

MEDIA

Barbara Risman wrote, for CNN.com: "Let's Make a Rule on Sexual Harassment," and "Why do Cain Adultery Allegations Stick More Than Harassment Charges?"

Kathleen Gerson wrote "Taking Back Personal Time" in the *New York Times*' "Save America, Shop at Work" debate.

Chloe Bird appeared on the "Chore Wars" episode of the Dr. Phil Show, December 2.

Casey Brienza wrote "Men of Wonder: Gender and American Superhero Comics" on the Cambridge University website.

Sarah Damaske wrote, for the Huffington Post, "Women on the Margins of the Labor Market."

Sarah Goldrick-Rab wrote, for the (Madison WI) *Capital Times*, "Students Occupy Colleges."

Kimberly Kelly wrote, for CNN.com, "Why I Oppose Mississippi's 'Personhood' Amendment."

Mignon Moore wrote, for the Huffington Post, "Color Us Invisible: In the Shadows of Communities Black and Gay, Black Lesbians Forge Lives, Loves, And Family."

Lisa Wade wrote, for *Ms.*, "Women Boxers Advised To Wear Skirts."

Leta Hong Fincher's research, on real estate and gender inequality in China, was cited by both *TIME* and the *New York Times*.

RECOGNITION

Davita Silfen Glasberg has been named President of Sociologists Without Borders.

Carla Pfeffer received the 2011 Jessie Bernard Contribution to Feminist Scholarship Paper Award from the National Council on Family Relations.

Barbara Sutton's book, *Bodies in Crisis: Culture, Violence, and Women's Resistance in Neoliberal Argentina* (Rutgers University Press, 2010), won the 2011 Gloria E. Anzaldúa book prize by the National Women's Studies Association.

Barbara Sutton's photo essay, "Situating Memory in Argentina," was a nominee for the Claude S. Fischer Award for Excellence in *Contexts*.

Call for Student Award Applications

Students, please consider submitting an application for the following awards. Applications are due **April 1, 2012**. Additional information is available on the SWS website, www.socwomen.org

Esther Ngan-ling Chow and Marejoyce Green Scholarship

The primary purpose of this scholarship is to offer support to women scholars from underrepresented groups and are studying concerns that women of color face domestically and/or internationally, and to increase the participation of students of color in SWS.

Selection Criteria

- The student must be a woman from a racial/ethnic group facing racial discrimination in the United States.
- The dissertation must be sociologically relevant scholarship that addresses the concerns of Women of Color, domestically and/or internationally.
- The student must be in the early stages of writing a dissertation and must be "All But Dissertation" (ABD) by the time the term of the award begins. (Must be certified by the student's advisor or Graduate Director)
- The applicant must demonstrate a financial need for the award.
- Domestic and international students are eligible to apply.

Applications should be submitted to Vrushali Patil vrushali.patil@gmail.com and Kris DeWelde kdewelde@fgcu.edu

The 2012 Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship

The Beth B. Hess Memorial Scholarship is awarded to an advanced sociology Ph.D. student who began her or his study in a community college or technical school. A student advanced to candidacy (ABD status) in an accredited Ph.D. program in sociology in the U.S. is eligible to apply if she or he studied at a U.S. two-year college either part-time or full-time for the equivalent of at least one full academic year that was not part of a high-school dual-enrollment program.

To honor Beth Hess's career, the committee looks for:

- Commitment to teaching, especially at a community college or other institution serving less-privileged students.
- Research and activism in social inequality, social justice, or social problems, with a focus on gender and/or gerontology being especially positive.
- Service to the academic and/or local community, including mentoring and activism.
- High quality research and writing in the proposal and letter of application.

Detailed information about the submission process is found on the SWS website www.socwomen.org

Cheryl Allyn Miller Award for Research on Women and Work

The purpose of this award is to recognize a sociology graduate student or a recent doctorate whose research or activism constitutes an outstanding contribution to the field of women and work. This contribution may take the form of scholarly or policy research or activism. It may be completed work or work in progress, but should not be a proposal for future work, and should be sufficiently close to completion that the applicant can concisely describe and contextualize the contribution to the field.

Applicants must be graduate students or have received their Ph.D. in 2011 or 2012. Applicants must belong to SWS, and may join at the same time they apply for the award.

Applications should be submitted to [Laura West Steck lsteck@yep.edu](mailto:Laura.West.Steck@yep.edu)



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To update address or contact information with SWS please log on at:
www.socwomen.org/members and click Member Profile, then Edit.

SWS Chapters

Please visit <http://www.socwomen.org/web/about/chapters.html> for a current listing of local and regional chapters.

Chapter News: Bay Area Symposium

by Katrina Kimport, Chair of Bay Area SWS

On September 30, 2011, the Bay Area [California] SWS chapter held its first annual symposium, entitled: Teaching, Research, and Work-Life Balance. The symposium showcased research by Bay Area SWS members and provided opportunities for attendees to discuss issues related to teaching and work/life balance. We had 12 presenters and over 20 attendees.

The symposium began with a series of 5-minute presentations in which presenters gave a quick snapshot of their work. These presentations were followed by an extended discussion period during which presenters and attendees could follow-up on presentations of interest to them.

The second half of the event was devoted to “feedback sessions” in which the presenter introduced a topic (e.g., how can I knit together my theoretical and empirical questions in a research project?) and asked for help from the other attendees.

Finally, at the close of the symposium, we had a group discussion of two participant-generated topics: 1. strategies for networking; and 2. strategies for effectively communicating findings to different audiences (e.g., non-sociologists). The symposium took place at RTI International, which contributed meeting space, beverage costs, and supply costs. Lunch was paid for through the SWS Membership Committee, which allots funds to SWS chapters.

The event was a huge success. It brought in four new members to the chapter, and strengthened the Bay Area SWS community. If your chapter is interested in a symposium, feel free to contact kimportk@obgyn.ucsf.edu for details and advice.