January 2010

Dear PAA Member:

On behalf of the PAA 2010 Program Committee, we are pleased to present the Preliminary Program for the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America. The meeting will be held in Dallas from Thursday April 15 to Saturday April 17, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Dallas at Reunion Boulevard.

The creation of the program for the annual meeting of the PAA is the product of the research interests of our membership. Following last year’s meeting, PAA members submitted approximately 100 suggested sessions for the 2010 meeting. Based on these suggestions, investigation of the most popular sessions (as measured by the volume of submissions) at recent meetings, and informal canvassing of PAA members, the PAA Program Committee assembled a list of 92 regular sessions that were listed in the Call for Papers posted on the website in July. The program committee endeavored to create broad topics for sessions and, to the extent possible, recruited members to serve as session organizers who had not been in this role in the last two years.

More than 2,000 submissions came into the PAA Meeting website. The real heroes of program planning are the session organizers who read and evaluated the submissions under quite a tight deadline. With 92 regular session organizers, the mean number of first-choice papers per organizer is over 20, but many organizers had more than 50 submissions: Joyce Abma, Robert Adelman, Lawrence Berger, Ann Biddlecom, Anjani Chandra, Irma Elo, Angel Harris, Joe Hotz, Margot Jackson, Anrudh Jain, Rucker Johnson, Jenna Johnson-Hanks, Yasamin Kusunoki, Ulla Larsen, Ethan Lewis, Shelly Lundberg, Anju Malhotra, Jane Menken, Dowell Myers, Ron Rindfuss, Richard Rogers, Christine Schwartz, Freya Sonenstein, Rafe Stolzenberg, and John Wilmoth. Anjani Chandra deserves special mention for handling over 110 submissions! The PAA Program Committee is grateful for all the extra effort that was required.

For session organizers who received many more good papers than could be accommodated in a single session, over 88 additional “overflow” sessions were added to the program. Seven additional sessions were created from abstracts and papers submitted directly to the President or that were routed to him by the organizers. There are approximately 70 posters in each of the seven poster sessions. In all, we are able to accommodate 1285 of the submissions in the 2010 PAA program. The preliminary program includes 2268 participants (including co-authors of multiple authored papers). It is hard to imagine a more productive and participatory scholarly association.

All of this is possible because hundreds of PAA members spend countless volunteer hours working as members of the program committee and as session organizers. THANK YOU! We also appreciate the willingness of PAA members to serve as discussants and session chairs. We owe debts of gratitude to Germán Rodríguez who is the creator of the machinery behind the PAA Meeting website and database, and Wendy Tieu, who assisted Mare on many of the myriad details involved in organizing the program. Special thanks go to Philippe Migrenne, who devoted enormous energy to the many issues that arose with
the submissions and organizer judging. Philippe, Germán, Chang Chung, and Wendy -- thank you for your dedication and service!

We have 10 invited sessions on a variety of special topics. In keeping with the 2010 census year, Linda Gage and the PAA Committee on Population Statistics organized two sessions on “Evolution of the American Community Survey in the Coming Decade,” and “The Future of Data Collection, Access, and Dissemination.” Additionally, on behalf of the Committee on Applied Demography, Tori Velkoff organized a session on “Evaluation of the 2010 Census Using Demographic Analysis Estimates.” Joan Kaufman has assembled an excellent panel on “China’s One-Child Policy Turns 30: China’s Demographic Challenges and Policy Options.” The program includes several jointly-sponsored invited sessions that are jointly sponsored with our international partner population associations. John Casterline, Chair of the PAA International Outreach Committee has organized sessions on “Strengths and Weaknesses of Asian Demographic Data (with the Asian Population Association); “Fifty Years of Demography in Africa” (with the Union of African Population Scientists [UAPS]);” and “Health and Migration Among Mexican Origin Population in Mexico and the U.S.” (with the Mexican Society of Demography [SOMEDE]). Additionally, in concert with the Canadian Population Society, Barry Edmonston has organized a session, “How Do Early Life Conditions Affect Fertility and Mortality? Consensus and Controversies.” Paul Demeny has organized an “Author Meets Critics” session on Massimo Livli Bacci’s recent book, “Conquest: The Destruction of the American Indios.” Finally, Eileen Crimmins has put together an exciting session based on the forthcoming report of the National Research Council Panel on Diverging Mortality.

As in the past, we also take time at the PAA Annual Meeting to remember members of our field who have passed away since our last meeting. Amos Hawley and Valerie Oppenheimer will be remembered at a special session on Thursday evening, 8:30-10:00 pm. If you know of other PAA members who have passed away during the past year, please let Omer Galle (org@prc.utexas.edu) know so that their names may be included in the memorial service program. Members are encouraged to participate in this session and to contribute remembrances of recently deceased members.

More information can be found on the PAA website. The PAA Board continues to search for creative ways to enhance access at the annual meetings for all members within the constraints of our very limited association resources. The presidential session will also be captioned for those with special hearing needs. Suggestions to improve access to the meetings are most welcome.

As in recent years, there will be LCD projectors and overhead projectors in all sessions. Presenters (or session organizers) are responsible for bringing a laptop computer with their PowerPoint presentations to connect to the LCD projector. The PAA program will continue until 2:20 pm on Saturday afternoon.

Sessions will be 110 minutes and some sessions will include two discussants in order to maximize feedback to paper authors. Unless otherwise directed by the session chair, authors should plan on no more than 12-15 minutes for their presentation. This will leave time for introductions, transitions, discussants, audience questions and comments. As in recent years, poster sessions will group posters by broad topic area – fertility, marriage, children, health etc. We hope that this will help specialists who visit poster sessions to find the posters in their specialty areas, as well as group together poster authors with similar interests.

This year the PAA is going to Texas, which has never before hosted our meeting, despite a thriving PAA membership and being home to four (Houston, San Antonio, Dallas, and Austin) of the 15 most-populated U.S. cities. The city of Dallas, where our 2010 meeting will be held, is currently the eighth-largest in the United States and is part of the fourth-largest metropolitan area (Dallas/Fort Worth/Arlington) in the nation, with a total population of over 5 million residents. Dallas is located within a four-hour flight from most North American destinations. Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) International
Airport is also the world’s third busiest airport, offering nearly 1,800 flights per day. Dallas is also a leading business and meeting city. In 2009, 25 area businesses were named Fortune 500 companies, including Exxon Mobil, JC Penney and Texas Instruments.

The Dallas Metropolitan Area is the leading visitor and leisure destination in Texas. Once here, visitors can easily get around by riding one of the fastest-growing light rail systems in the nation that is directly linked to the conference hotel or the historic, free McKinney Avenue Trolley from the Dallas Arts District throughout the Uptown area with its restaurants, pubs, boutique hotels and shops. Throughout the city, visitors enjoy the best shopping in the southwest, the largest urban arts district in the nation, 13 entertainment districts, numerous major league sports teams, historic downtown museums, and much more. Moreover, no visit to the area is complete without a stop in Fort Worth (about 30 miles west of Dallas), which itself is the 17th-largest city in the United States and a thriving center of culture and commerce. Visitors are often surprised by everything Fort Worth has to offer, most notably the Historic Stockyards, remarkable museums, and a thriving downtown area. Springtime also brings generally fantastic weather to the Dallas Metropolitan area, with average April high temperatures of 77 and average lows of 56.

Registration details about the events and other fun activities are located on the PAA Website.

We look forward to seeing you in Dallas.

Best wishes for a happy new year,

Robert D. Mare, President

Sandra L. Hofferth, Vice-President