39th Year

# PAA Affairs

Spring 2007

Quarterly Newsletter of the Population Association of America, Inc. Kiersten Johnson and Maitreyi Das, Editors

# 2007 PAA Nominees Announced

The PAA Nominating Committee – Dennis Hogan (chair), Eileen Crimmins, and Larry Wu – proposes the following slate of candidates for the 2007 election. Additional candidates may be nominated according to the procedures outlined in Article IV of the PAA bylaws, available on the website, <a href="http://www.popassoc.org">http://www.popassoc.org</a>. Submit petitions signed by at least ten PAA members, along with the required biographical data information by April 27, 2007, to John D. Iceland, Secretary-Treasurer, PAA, 8630 Fenton Street, Suite 722, Silver Spring, MD 20910. The biographical information form may be obtained from the PAA office.

Nominees for PAA Offices

#### President (1)

Frances K. Goldscheider, University of Maryland Kathleen Mullan Harris, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

#### Vice President (1)

Robert A. Moffitt, Johns Hopkins University Robert J. Willis, University of Michigan

# **Board of Directors (4)**

Cameron D. Campbell, University of California-Los Angeles

Jacqueline E. Darroch, The Guttmacher Institute Nancy A. Denton, State University of New York-Albany

Isaac W. Eberstein, Florida State University David P. Lindstrom, Brown University Seth Sanders, University of Maryland-College Park Herbert L. Smith, University of Pennsylvania David Weir, University of Michigan

# Nominating Committee (3)

William G. Axinn, University of Michigan Daniel T. Lichter, Cornell University Shelly J. Lundberg, University of Washington Peter F. McDonald, Australian National University Judith J. Treas, University of California-Irvine Douglas A. Wolf, Syracuse University

#### Publications Committee (1)

Andrew D. Foster, Brown University Linda G. Martin, Institute of Medicine

# **President's Letter**

#### Dear PAA Member:

On behalf of the PAA 2007 Program Committee, we are pleased to present the Preliminary Program for the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America. The meeting will be held in New York City from Thursday, March 29 to Saturday, March 31, 2007 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel.

The creation of the program for the annual meetings of the PAA is the product of the research interests of our membership. Following last year's meeting, PAA members submitted over 175 suggested sessions for the 2007 meetings. 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 88 regular sessions that were listed in the Call for Papers posted on the website in July. In a change from previous years, a notification postcard alerting past participants and PAA members to the Call for Papers was mailed last August. The program committee endeavored to create broad, meaningful titles for sessions and asked members to serve as session organizers who had not been in this role in the last two years.

More than 2000 unique submissions came into the PAA Meetings website. This is a record! The real heroes of program planning are the session organizers who read and evaluated the submissions under quite a tight deadline. With 88 regular session organizers, the mean number of papers per organizer is close to 23, but many organizers had more than 50 submissions: Jennifer Barber, Hannah Brueckner, Irene Browne, John Casterline, Siân Curtis, Stefanie DeLuca, Katharine Donato, Brian Finch, Penny Gordon-Larsen, Kimberly Goyette, Lingxin Hao, Carl Haub, Robert Hummer, Elizabeth M. King, Rosalind B. King, Heather Koball, Sarah O.

Meadows, Nancy Riley, Bruce Spencer, Cecilia Tomassini, David K. Weir, Leah K. VanWey, Lawrence Wu, and Scott Yabiku. The PAA Program Committee is grateful for the extra effort that was required. For session organizers who received many more good papers than could be accommodated in a single session, 75 additional "overflow" sessions were added to the program. Four additional sessions were created from submissions that were submitted directly to the President or that were routed to her by the organizers. In addition, this year a seventh poster session was added. There are approximately 60 posters per session. In all, we are able to accommodate over 1000 of the submissions in the 2007 PAA program. The preliminary program includes over 2000 participants (including co-authors of multiple It is hard to imagine a more authored papers). 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 a particular debt of gratitude to Bridget Riordan, who coordinated the preparation of the program, and Germán Rodríguez, who is the creator of the machinery behind the PAA Meetings website and database. Years ago, all of this work was done by hand. The program was created from piles of papers laid out on tables and the floor. Assessing balance and checking for conflicts was laborious, with changes rippling through the program. It is so different now! The ease of the whole process, from paper submissions, to organizer reviews to the creation of the final program is all due to Germán's clever programming of the website and database, which can handle all the complexities of organizing and scheduling the Annual Meetings. Germán also volunteers plenty of his time to help and to troubleshoot problems that inevitably emerge in the use of such a complex program. Germán, thank you for your dedication and service.

There are 13 invited sessions on a variety of special topics. Linda Jacobsen has organized a session entitled "Using the News Media to Increase Public Attention to Demographic Information." Ira Flatow, of NPR's Science Friday, has agreed to participate. This is very exciting. The program includes three "author meets critics" sessions. One entitled, "Why is Health in the US so Much Worse than Other Developed Countries?" features an article published in JAMA. Organized by David Blau, this session gives several well known scholars a chance to comment and for the authors to respond. "Populations at Risk," organized by John R.

Weeks, features a volume just put together by the NRC Committee on the Effective Use of Data, Methodologies, and Technologies to Estimate Sub-National Populations at Risk. The third, organized by Jacqueline Hagan, focuses on Robert Courtney Smith's Mexican New York. Two other invited sessions also give prominence to the site of this year's PAA meeting: "The Economic and Social Impact of 9/11 on NYC," organized by Greg Duncan; and "Sociodemographic Change in a New York Minute," organized by the Applied Demography group. There are also special sessions on "Women, Work and the Opt-Out Revolution," organized by Philip Cohen; "Collection and Analysis of Biomarker and Genetic Data," organized by Kathleen Mullan Harris; "Perspectives on the American Community Survey at Full Implementation" and "Data Access, Perceptions of Privacy, and Disclosure Avoidance," both organized by the Committee on Population Statistics (COPS); "The Politics and Future of International Family Planning Programs: Where Are We, and Where Should We Be?", organized by Karen O. Mason; "The Impact of Population Dynamics and Reproductive Health on Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction," organized by Subha Nagarajan and Tamara Fox; and "Panel on Immigrant Selection and Adaptation: Comparative Perspectives," a joint effort of the PAA and the Canadian Population Society.

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. This year, we have tragically lost Thomas R. Ford, Wen Lang Li and Kurt B. Mayer. There will be a special session on Thursday evening, 8:30-10:00 pm, to remember them. If you know of other PAA members who have passed away during the past year, please let Dudley Poston know (dudleyposton@yahoo.com), 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.

This year, as has become the custom, the PAA is offering parents the opportunity to register for child care during the session hours. Child care services will be provided by The Babysitters' Guild and PAA will provide a suite for child care. 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 2:15 pm on Saturday afternoon.

There are a few changes also. In response to member suggestions, the sessions have been shortened by five minutes to allow more time between sessions. Rather than 110 minutes per session, there will be 105 minutes per session. Unless otherwise directed by the session chair, authors should plan on no more than 15 minutes for their presentation. This will leave time for introductions, transitions, and audience questions and comments. Another change involves the poster sessions. Each poster session will group posters by broad topic area – family, fertility, migration, methods, 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.

New York City is a fascinating and energetic city with much to see. Times Square, Rockefeller Center, Grand Central Station, Central Park, the Empire State Building, the United Nations, and the Metropolitan Museum of Art are just a few of the many attractions and places of interest located nearby. Legendary entertainment venues and theatres such as Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, and Broadway Theatres are also close to the hotel, not to mention all the wonderful restaurants and shops. We hope you will take some time to enjoy the sights and sounds of this exciting city.

We look forward to seeing you in New York.

Best wishes for a happy new year, Barbara Entwisle, President Greg Duncan, Vice-President

# PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE

President Bush Releases Proposed Fiscal Year 2008 Budget

On Monday, February 5, President Bush released the Administration's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2008. This action marks the first step in the annual appropriations process. The Administration's budget challenges Congress by proposing to restrain growth in entitlement programs, such as Medicare and Medicaid, and nearly freezing domestic discretionary spending. Under the President's plan, funding for the Department of Defense would increase by 11 percent, and tax cuts set to expire in 2010 would be made permanent—a proposal that would cost \$373.9 billion over five vears.

The President's plan faces an uphill battle in the Democratic-controlled Congress. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi characterized the budget "as just more of the same fiscal irresponsibility and misplaced priorities." Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid described the President's submission "disappointing" and called on him to work with Congress "to develop better budget priorities."

The FY 2008 budget roll out is complicated by the fact that Congress has not completed action on all of the Fiscal Year 2007 appropriations bills. Last week, the House of Representatives passed a Joint Funding Resolution that would fund the federal government for the rest of FY 2007. The Senate is scheduled to debate the bill the week of February 12. The current continuing resolution will expire on February 15.

The following is a summary of the levels the President has proposed for agencies of interest to the Population Association of America/Association of Population Centers.

- The President has proposed \$28.6 billion for National Institutes of Health, which it claims is an increase of \$232 million over its FY 2007 proposal. However, the Ad Hoc Group for Medical Research has criticized the submission, stating that it is \$310 million less than the funding level in the final FY 2007 Joint Funding resolution passed by the House last week. In addition, the Administration proposes to increase the Global AIDS Transfer out of NIH by \$201 million, effectively cutting the agency's budget by \$511 million in FY 2008 and reducing it to its FY 2005 funding level.
- The National Science Foundation is requesting \$6.43 billion in FY 2008--a 6.8 percent increase over the President's FY 2007 request. NSF Director Arden Bement said the agency would use the funds to build on recent advances and to support promising initiatives to strengthen the nation's capacity for discovery and innovation. The budget emphasizes the agency's commitment to funding polar research, ocean research, nanotechnology, education and international collaborations and research under the auspices of the ongoing American Competitiveness Initiative.
- The Administration has proposed \$1.23 billion for the Census Bureau—an increase of approximately \$352 million over the Administration's FY 2007 request. The Bureau's submission also includes funds to replace the Survey of Income and Program

Participation, process millions of forms from the 2007 Economic Census, and continue preparations for a reengineered 2010 Census.

- For the Agency for International Development, proposed family planning/reproductive health (FP/FH) funding within the Child Survival and Health (CSH) account is \$301.7 million — a \$70 million or 19 percent reduction from the amount likely to be appropriated by Congress for FY 2007. Total FP/RH funding from all bilateral accounts, including funds designated for nations and countries in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, is slashed to \$324.8 million -- \$111 million or 25 percent cut from the amount expected to be included in the final FY 2007 CR.
- The President's FY 2008 budget requests \$109.9 million in program funds for National Center for Health Statistics. This represents an increase of \$900,000 over the FY 2007 request.

# **Contributors** PAA Thanks You!

# **Founder**

Charles F. Westoff

# Benefactor

Wendy D. Manning Joseph E. Potter

# **Sponsor**

Mohamed Ayad Alphonse L. MacDonald

# Friend

Bahri Ahmed Greg J. Duncan

# **Supporter**

Allan G. Hill Ellen Percy Kraly Baffour K. Takyi

# PAA PEOPLE

"PAA People," a regular feature of this newsletter, profiles members of our association in order to foster an appreciation of the diverse membership and different types of work we all do. Members are selected at random and then interviewed by Warren Brown, Cornell University. In this issue, Warren interviews Eric Jensen, Director of the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy at the College of William and Mary.

# Warren - How did you become interested in population issues?

Eric - I had an undergraduate class in economic development from Roy Hensley at the University of Miami. We voted on the topics we would cover, and "excess population" (this was 1976) won. I went to Michigan in 1977 thinking that the way to continue working on that topic was to study development. When I got there I realized that—largely by luck—I was at one of the great places to study economic demography. Faculty including Ron Lee, George Simmons, Ron Freedman, and Al Hermalin, colleagues like Mark Montgomery, and a really vibrant population studies group made it a wonderful experience.

# Warren - What type of work are you currently involved in?

*Eric* - I've spent a fair amount of time on measurement issues in the evaluation of reproductive health programs. Recently, I've been working on Mexican-US migration, the impact of migration on fertility, and the oldest-old in China. I also direct the Thomas Jefferson Program in Public Policy at William and Mary, and teach a course in cross-section econometrics.

# Warren - How long have you been a member of PAA and what benefits do you draw from your membership?

*Eric* - I've been a member since 1980. I rarely miss an annual meeting, as they are wonderful chances to connect with old friends and current collaborators.

Warren - What do you do when you're not studying population? Do you have any hobbies or interests that you'd like to share with the readers?

*Eric* - I'm married with two kids in high school. I play music with a friend, but, as the last two restaurant/bars we've played at (coincidentally) have closed down,

we're not doing that much lately. I have an old motorcycle and an older car that I tinker with, but not much is happening with the car. If anyone wants a 1974 BMW Bavaria with low, low miles....

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

# American Sociological Association: Call for **Demography Syllabi**

The ASA Demography Teaching Resource Guide will be updated this spring and published in August of 2007. We would like to include course syllabi or teaching exercises for a variety of undergraduate and graduate demography courses. If you have a syllabus or teaching exercise that you would like to share with your demography colleagues in this publication, please submit them by April 15, 2007 to the editors (David Payne, Loretta Bass, and Rebecca Nees) at one of the following addresses: 1) Email: davidp@ou.edu, or 2) Postal address: Demography Teaching Resource Guide, Department of Sociology, University of Oklahoma, 780 Van Vleet Oval, KH 331, Norman, OK 73019. The Demography Teaching Resource Guide is published by members of the Population Section of the American Sociological Association.

# **Population Sahalli**

Population stabilization plays a critical role in a wide range of other international efforts including global global security, climate change, women's empowerment, poverty, HIV/AIDS, and child and maternal mortality. To provide quick and easy access to this vast web of related information, the Population Institute has partnered with an innovative software company and created an information sharing system dedicated solely to population issues. We are proud to present and invite you to participate in our exciting new project, Population Sahalli (http://www. population.sahalli.com).

Population Sahalli\* is an interactive, living bibliography that allows members to add and view resources and participate in online discussions with practitioners and experts located in the U.S. and around the world. Current users include policy experts from the U.S. government and NGOs, academics, health practitioners and activists. Registration and participation in the program is free! Sign up at http://population.sahalli.com/Members/Request.aspx for your free Population Sahalli membership today.

Please contact the Population Institute by email or phone at (202) 544-3300 if you have any comments or questions.

\*Sahalli is the name of the program this site runs on. Derived from Chinook Indian jargon, Sahalli means "high ground:" an appropriate epithet given the bird's eye perspective on population issues that this site will provide.

# **2007 WLS Pilot Grant Program**

The Center for Demography of Health and Aging (CDHA) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison will award two to three pilot grants to investigators using the Wisconsin Longitudinal Study (WLS) data for scholarly research. The WLS provides an opportunity to study the life course, careers, retirement, intergenerational transfers and relationships, family functioning, physical and mental health and wellbeing, and morbidity and mortality from late adolescence to the retirement years. recipients will receive \$10,000 to support their research, along with a residency at CDHA, where they will receive training and support in use of WLS data. The residency will take place in Madison on August 2nd and 3rd, 2007. The application deadline is May 25, 2007. More information about the WLS and the pilot grant program including questionnaires, codebooks and public data may be found at the WLS pilot grant website: http://www.ssc.wisc.edu/ wlsresearch/pilot/. Please contact Carol Roan by email roan@ssc.wisc.edu or by telephone (608) 265-6196 if you have further questions.

# 2007 Luxembourg Income Study Introductory Workshop

The Luxembourg Income Study (LIS) Summer Workshop is a one-week workshop designed to introduce researchers in the social sciences to comparative research in income distribution, employment and social policy using the LIS database. We welcome applications from researchers with varying levels of knowledge and experience.

The Luxembourg Income Study has made comparable over 160 large microdata sets that contain comprehensive measures of income, employment and household characteristics for 30 industrialized countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Russia, the Slovak Republic,

Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States).

The language of instruction is English. By the end of the workshop, attendees will be fully trained to use the database independently. Workshop faculty includes the LIS directors, Janet Gornick and Markus Jäntti, the LIS staff and guest lecturers. In addition, the winner of the annual Aldi Hagenaars Memorial Award will present his/her paper (see Aldi Hagenaars Memorial Award page: http://www.lisproject.org/workshop/ aldiaward.htm). The workshop format includes a mixture of lectures on comparative research, laboratory sessions and individual one-on-one advisory sessions. Attendees will also be introduced to the new Luxembourg Wealth Study (http://www. lisproject.org/lws.htm).

Tuition of €1,400 covers instructional materials, single-occupancy accommodations, and full board. Transportation to and from Luxembourg is the responsibility of the student. The 2007 workshop will be held from June 24 to June 30, 2007 (with departure on July 1). Download application (http://www. lisproject.org/workshop/2007application.pdf) return it to Caroline de Tombeur by April 2, 2007. Send your completed application by email (caroline@lisproject.org) or fax: +352-26 00 30 30. For information about LIS, see http://www. lisproject.org.

# The Second Special ICPSR Summer Program Course Longitudinal Analysis of Historical **Demographic Data**

July 23-August 17, 2007 \* Ann Arbor, Michigan Historical demography is an interdisciplinary field with a long history of important contributions to population studies and to the understanding of the past. This research has revealed a great deal about fundamental demographic processes such as household and family dynamics, the transition to smaller family units, pre- and post-industrial population dynamics, the demographic transition, migration patterns, and demographic responses to economic stress. This 4-week course will emphasize the use of event history analysis and data management of historical databases drawn from European, North American, and Asian populations. Longitudinal data will be employed to construct time-varying covariates and contextual variables for individuals, families, and households. Methodological issues such as censoring and incomplete information will also be addressed.

Participants should be familiar with quantitative methods, including regression analysis. Those who need preparation in statistics are advised to attend the regression and history courses in the first ICPSR summer session. The application process is competitive, and enrollment will be limited. Participants will be selected on the basis of their interests in the topical areas, prior methodological training, and potential for research contributions to the area. Applications must include a vita, and cover letter summarizing research interest, course objectives, and experience. Students also need to include a letter of reference from their advisor and a transcript of grades. A limited number of stipends (between \$500 and \$2,000 US) will be awarded to cover travel and per diem. For more information, visit <a href="http://www.icpsr.">http://www.icpsr.</a> umich.edu/training/summer/historicaldemography.html. On-line applications begin in February at http://www.icpsr.umich.edu/training/ summer, or visit us at the ICPSR booth at the Annual Meetings in NYC. Application materials are due by April 27. Individuals applying for this course should check the "Competitive Four-week" box on the application form. For those admitted to the workshop. no fee will be charged to attend the course.

#### **Commemoration of the National Health Interview** Anniversary Survey's 50th and Poster Competition: Monday, June 25, 2007

The National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), which is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) in 2007. To mark the occasion, NCHS is holding a one-day conference on June 25, 2007 at its home site in Hyattsville, Maryland (in Metropolitan Washington, D.C.). Watch our Web site for further information on registering for the anniversary celebration: http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nhis.htm.

All past and present users of the NHIS are invited to enter a poster competition. The winners will each receive up to \$1,500 to cover travel expenses to attend the anniversary celebration. To enter the competition, send a description of how you have used NHIS data or analyses successfully to solve a research problem, to evaluate a policy, to teach a class, to write a report, etc. We want to hear how the NHIS has been used, directly or indirectly, to improve public health. We want to hear about projects involving NHIS data or analyses that you have already completed, not projects that you are planning. Any productive use of the NHIS over its 50-year lifespan is appropriate.

Your submission should be in text form (not in poster form), no more than three pages long. You may include supporting documents (e.g., reprints of journal articles) without counting them toward the three-page limit. Each competition winner will work with the NCHS Publications staff to develop and produce a poster, at no cost to the competition winner. The 10 posters will be presented by the competition winners at the anniversary celebration.

Please send your competition entries to Brenda LaRochelle (3311 Toledo Road, room 2210, Hyattsville, Maryland 20782; phone: 301-458-4686; e-mail: BLaRochelle@cdc.gov) by post or e-mail. Please feel free to contact Brenda if you have any questions. Entries must be received by March 15, 2007, and winners will be announced on April 1, 2007.

#### **RAND Summer Institute**

RAND is pleased to announce the 14th annual RAND Summer Institute (RSI), which will take place in Santa Monica, CA, July 11-14, 2007. The RSI consists of two conferences addressing critical issues facing our aging population: a Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists (July 11-12) and a workshop on the Demography, Economics and Epidemiology of Aging (July 13-14). The primary aim of the RSI is to expose scholars interested in the study of aging to a wide range of research being conducted in fields beyond their own specialties.

The Mini-Med School focuses on biomedical issues relating to aging and should be of interest to all nonmedically trained scholars regardless of background. Topics will be drawn from the diverse fields of biomedicine, including biology, genetics, patient care, psychiatry, and other areas. Expert clinicians and researchers will provide participants with insight into the science of aging and a greater understanding of relevant medical issues.

The Workshop on Aging is targeted to pre- and postdoctoral students and junior faculty, and to more senior researchers new to aging research. It will consist of four half-day sessions with topics drawn from research areas in the social sciences, including discussions of savings, disability, and quality of life issues. In each session, leading experts will discuss the state of the literature, integrating results from their own research and supplementing these overviews with more detailed analyses of specific topics.

We invite all interested researchers to apply to attend the 2007 RSI. Applicants may apply for fellowship support to pay for registration, travel, and accommodations. Both the Mini-Med School and the workshop are described more fully at our web site:

http://www.rand.org/labor/aging/rsi/. For additional information, please contact Diana Malouf (malouf@rand.org).

RSI is sponsored by the National Institute on Aging and the Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research at the National Institutes of Health.

# Memorial Session at PAA Meetings in New York

Dudley Poston (Texas A&M University), William Frey (University of Michigan), and Wendy Baldwin (The Population Council) comprise the PAA committee tasked to organize the Memorial Session to be held at the PAA meetings this March in New York City. At this session, all demographers who have died in the past year are remembered by name.

Dudley, Bill and Wendy are now assembling a list of demographers who have died since the last PAA meeting in Los Angeles, or who died right before that meeting but were not remembered in the Memorial Session at the Los Angeles meetings. To be included in the Memorial session, the decedent need not necessarily be a member of PAA at the time of his/her death, but should have been identified as a "demographer" while alive.

Sadly, they report they now have three names on their list of decedents, namely, Thomas R. Ford (University of Kentucky); Wen Lang Li (Ohio State University); and Kurt B. Mayer (Brown University).

If PAA members know of any other demographers who have passed away in the last year or so, please send names of the decedents to Dudley Poston at dudleyposton@yahoo.com. Also, if PAA members learn of any demographers dying between now and a week or so right before the PAA meetings start in New York City (on the 28th of March), please send the names right away to Dudley.

# **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

PAA would like to welcome 38 new members since November 1, 2006. Current membership now stands at 2,804.

# In Memory of Professor Emerita **Doris P. Slesinger**

Doris P. Slesinger, Professor Emerita of Rural Sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, died of pancreatic cancer on October 1, 2006. She was 78 years old. She is survived by her husband, Professor Emeritus Edward Wellin, her three sons and daughtersin-law, and five grandchildren.

Doris earned her undergraduate degree in 1949 from Vassar College, her master's degree in 1960 in sociology and demography from the University of Michigan, and her PhD in sociology, with emphasis on demography and health, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1973. She joined the faculty of UW-Madison's Department of Rural Sociology in 1974, and retired in 1998. Doris was an active participant in the faculty governance of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She served on the Social Studies Divisional Committee, the University Academic Planning Council, the Committee on Academic and Social Issues in the Student Environment, the Honorary Degree Committee, and on a number of committees within the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. She became the first woman chair of a rural sociology department in the country in 1987, a position she held until 1991. She also led the department's Applied Population Laboratory as Director or Co-Director from 1974 to 1987. In retirement, she remained engaged in university affairs, including serving in the UW-Madison Faculty/Staff Ombuds Program.

Doris Slesinger's outstanding career as an applied sociologist built on the long-standing traditions of rural sociology. Her research and outreach activities concerned the health and well-being of minorities, including African Americans and Native Americans, women, migrant farm workers, and the rural poor. Her latest work, written with Howard Grigsby of UW-Whitewater and Karl Taeuber of UW-Madison and completed just a few months before her death, is a statistical overview of African-Americans in Wisconsin. Doris conducted significant research on the health and health care of migrant agricultural workers in Wisconsin, providing data used to support policy and legislative reforms. She served as a member of the Governor's Advisory Council on Migrant Labor from 1998 until her death.

Doris's interest in demography and health was a major resource for students interested in public health. She provided a unique combination of demographic expertise, medical sociology focus, and concern for applied research. She was a key resource for population-based health studies. Doris authored or coauthored four books and nearly 100 articles and reports. Her "Women's Health Brochures" contributed to the expansion of public knowledge on health issues. Written in user-friendly prose in both English and Spanish, the brochures cover an array of topics on women's clinical health issues and are distributed throughout the country. Doris was active in UW-Extension work, not only through guiding and preparing the production of applied reports, but also organizing many workshops on applied population concerns, and consulting with other extension workers and the public.

Doris's work in the Population Association of America centered around applied demography. She was the first chair of the Committee on State and Local Demography, the predecessor of the current Committee on Applied Demography. Beginning in 1976, and for several years following, this involved organizing a breakfast program at the annual meeting. Her efforts were instrumental in the creation and early survival of this important activity of the Association. She continued to serve as a member of its Steering Committee until 1989. During those same years Doris initiated and edited News Notes, a publication of the PAA Committee on State and Local Demography.

It was in the field of rural health that Doris achieved the most national recognition. She was elected to the Editorial Board of the Journal of Rural Health for three consecutive two-year terms, serving in that capacity from 1984 to 1992. Doris was a long standing leader and member of the North Central Regional Research Committee on Delivery of Health Services in Rural Areas. She served on various committees of the National Institutes of Health, the National Research Council, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the National Science Foundation, the National Cancer Institute, the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, the National Research Institute, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Doris also served as Vice President of the Wisconsin Chapter of the Association for Women in Science (1993-94).

Doris was an active member of the American Sociological Association (ASA) and served as a member of the ASA Committee on Regulation of Research from 1980 to 1983. Her service to the Rural Sociological Society (RSS) included a long list of committees and activities. She served on its governing council from 1983 to 1987; she was elected RSS Vice

President in 1989. The Rural Sociological Society presented Doris with the Distinguished Rural Sociologist Award in 2002 for lifetime career achievements.

Doris was in the generation of women professors who were always breaking new ground. Academic women in the generations that followed have had a somewhat easier time because of the pioneers like Doris who forged the way, fought the early battles, and established the precedents. Doris actively and continuously tried to make their way easier by her service as an advisor and mentor to women graduate students and junior faculty. Doris provided what many professional women sought: an advisor, a collaborator, a role model, a steady and sturdy shoulder. The University of Wisconsin's Women Faculty Mentoring Program not only selected her as the first recipient of its mentoring award in 1998, but named it the Doris P. Slesinger Award for Excellence in Mentoring. She was soft-spoken, but never unspoken. She was passionately concerned about fairness and justice, and she never forgot that people have many dimensions to their lives. She made sure that life transitions were marked and celebrated. Doris brought intelligence, honesty and humor to all her activities and relationships.

Those interested in making a memorial gift in Professor Slesinger's honor should contact the Rural Sociology Department Chair (608-262-9536) or consult the department's website <a href="http://www.drs.wisc.edu">http://www.drs.wisc.edu</a> for information.

Submitted by: Eleanor Cautley, Glenn V. Fuguitt, Gene F. Summers, Leann M. Tigges, Paul R. Voss

# Announcement: FIFTH AFRICAN POPULATION CONFERENCE 10-14 December 2007, Arusha, Tanzania

"Emerging Issues in Population and Development in Africa"

#### **Sub-Themes:**

- Population Growth, Poverty and Wellbeing
- Reproductive Health and Family Planning
- Migration and Urbanization and their Consequences on Development
- Maternal Health, and Young Child Survival and Development
- Schooling and Employment
- HIV and AIDS
- The Health Transition
- Sexual Behaviour and Sexuality
- Family, Gender and Households
- Population, Environment, and Sustainable Development
- New and innovative approaches to data collection and analysis

#### **Key Deadlines**

Submission of abstracts	03 Apr 2007
Authors informed of decisions on their abstracts	18 May 2007
Authors of posters and additional sessions (if any) informed	20 Jun 2007
Application for financial support to attend conference	30 Jun 2007
Submission of completed papers	18 Aug 2007
Participants to be funded through UAPS notified	14 Sep 2007

Early registration deadline 1 July 2007: Members = \$80; Non-member= \$100

Second registration deadline 31 Oct 2007: Members = \$100; Non-member= \$150

For further details or queries, contact:

Conference Coordinator at the UAPS Secretariat (Mark Darko: markdarko@yahoo.co.uk)

Chairperson of the National Organizing Committee in Tanzania (Florence Mwanri: fmwanri@yahoo.com) PAA is a nonprofit, scientific, professional organization established "to promote the improvement, advancement, and progress of the human race by means of research into problems connected with human population, in both its quantitative and qualitative aspects, and the dissemination and publication of the results of such research." Members receive Demography and PAA Affairs. An annual meeting is held in the spring. Dues are: Regular Member, \$100; Emeritus member, \$68; Organizational member, \$275; Joint husband-wife members, \$147; Student member, \$42. To join, contact: Population Association of America, 8630 Fenton Street, Suite 722, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3812, 301.565.6710.

PAA Affairs is the official newsletter of the Population Association of America. Its purpose is to report to PAA members news of the Association in particular and of the profession in general. Brief news items of interest to people working in the population field may be sent to the Editor (see address at right), who reserve the right to select for inclusion among the items received, and to edit items for publication. Deadlines for submission of items for the quarterly issues are as follows:

> January 15 Spring: Summer: May 1 Fall: August 1 November 1 Winter:

#### 2007 President of PAA: Barbara Entwisle

# **Future PAA Meetings**

2007

2008	April 17-19 New Orleans, LA; Sheraton New
	Orleans
2009	April 30-May 2 Detroit, MI; Detroit Marriott
2010	April 15-17 Dallas, TX; Hyatt Regency Dallas
2011	March 31-April 2 Washington, DC; Marriott
	Wardman Park

March 29-31 New York, NY; Marriott Marquis

As stated in the Bylaws of the PAA Constitution, "Meetings of the Association shall be held only at places where there is written assurance that no member will be denied full access to facilities of the meeting place."

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# **Related Publications:**

# Applied Demography

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