Hello SWS South!

I hope this message finds you well following our wonderful SSS meeting. I would like to follow up on a few items discussed at the business meeting on Saturday of the SSS meeting.

First and foremost, we had a great presence on the program this year! Thank you Shannon Carter for your hard work on creating such a great presence!

Secondly, I would like to congratulate our new SWS-S Executive Board Officers. Congratulations to the following members:
- Brianna Turgeon - Vice President
- Lyla Byers – Secretary
- Andrea Hunt – Chair of Awards Committee

The next elections will be held in Spring 2020 and the following positions will be up election: President, Membership Chair/Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Vision Committee Chair. Please consider running and nominating yourself or someone you know for any one of these positions.

I would also like to refer back to an email from our new Vice President, Bri Turgeon, about submitting session, poster, or workshops ideas for the 2020 SSS conference. We would like to have another year of a large presence on the program. Please submit all your ideas to Bri via email. The theme is centered around applied and public sociology.

Fourth, I would like to celebrate the great job raising funds for S.O.N.G. Cheri, our treasurer, will provide us the totals once all finances from the conference are complete. We will then send a check onto S.O.N.G.
Also in regards to money, we plan on asking for more money from SWS nationals to help with our conference and year round expenses. However, I ask that you please still consider donating to SWS-S and renewing your membership. Relatedly, if you think your department might be interested in a departmental membership please let me know.

Speaking of membership, Penny Harvey, the Membership Chair, will be updating our membership list and cross list in formation with Cheri so we do not miss anyone this year. The hope then is to move our list to nationals. In addition, we will move our website to nationals. Please let me or Penny know if you have any questions!

Lastly, if you would like to be involved in the planning of next year's fundraising efforts, please reach out to Mandi Barringer, Vision Committee Coordinator. We are going to attempt to assist our Jax non-profit on multiple levels while also reimagining our events. For example moving away from Coffee-for-a-Cause to an event where we feed our members while connecting with the local food efforts in Jax with help from Tracey Ore.

I am very excited for the year to come! Please let me know if any concerns.

In peace and feminist solidarity,

Marni Brown
SWS-South President 2018-21

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**Message and Report from the Treasurer**

Greetings from your treasurer! It is my honor to serve SWS-South in this position.

As of May 8, 2019, we had $2,573.56 in the bank (see “Treasurer’s Report”). This is a little more than we had a year ago and will increase by approximately $500.00 in the next few weeks (Chapter funding was requested from SWS and the receipts and paperwork will be filed soon). Our goal is to maintain a two or three thousand dollar balance. Since most members renew or join at the Southern Sociological Society annual meeting our coffers typically decrease from summer to the beginning of the year.

We had a good turnout in Atlanta with a combined 117 membership due renewals and new members. If you have not yet renewed, please consider renewing your membership. You can renew/pay dues any time of the year. Our membership year runs from April 1 – March 31 and dues are relatively inexpensive ($20 for faculty; $15 for new/contingent/retired faculty members; $5 for students). You can join/renew online (https://sites.google.com/view/sws-south/). Of course, you can also purchase a gift membership for a student or colleague. Should you be so inclined, we delightfully accept all contributions to the coffers.

As is our tradition, we held the “Coffee for a Cause” reception and silent auction at the conference hotel and Happy Hour at The Regent in Atlanta. This year we purchased buttons (which were masterfully designed by Dani Chapman) and sold them to raise money for S.O.N.G. and SWS-South. The buttons were a hit, we recouped the money we paid for them and raised over $200 more. We raised $1,721.15 for S.O.N.G. ($1,521.15 was donated via SWS-S payment options and $200.00 via the button sales).

If you have any questions or fund raising suggestions please contact me at cheri.chambers@saintleo.edu.

Cheri Chambers
May 2019

*Continued on page 3.*
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<th>Treasurer’s Report</th>
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How did you get entered for this award? (apply, nominated by someone...)

I applied for the Beth B Hess Memorial Scholarship. I presented the award to my dissertation chair and she encouraged me to apply and coordinated with other faculty to complete the required documents. Department faculty wrote a letter of nomination, the department staff helped to make sure I had the correct forms on file to submit. Everyone in the department was really supportive of my application.

How will this scholarship help you?

The scholarship can pay for tuition, fees, and living expenses. At this point in my studies the biggest hurdles are supporting myself so I can afford travel to conduct research. The award makes me more comfortable to make the decisions that are best for my research. I created a budget for research travel, but it is small and does not allow for me to make changes. Now if I need another day in a community, I can afford to have my dog boarded at the kennel and I can pay for lodging. Similarly, I intend to interview approximately 40 individuals and I was worried about coordinating those interviews. If an interview falls through or I someone needs to reschedule I have more support.

The award provides the ability to attend national conferences. Each summer Sociologists for Women in Society, the Society for the Study of Social Problems, and the American Sociological Association hold conferences in the same city concurrently or in succession. All three have come tighter to support my 2019 conference and travel fees. I have never dreamed of attending a national conference, and now I have the opportunity to participate. I would consider these conferences to be the Disney World of sociology and several other social disciplines are represented as well. I honestly cannot wait to see the conference programs to plan this experience.

Describe your dissertation.

My dissertation examines food insecurity among community college students in MS. I have already completed the pilot interviews and the online survey. The online survey measures food insecurity prevalence, academic progress, health, and social support. The next steps are interviews and a policy content analysis. I believe solving food insecurity includes an understanding of the prevalence, frequency and duration of food insecurity and how these experiences are influenced by safety net policies. It would seem that if students struggle with food insecurity while attending postsecondary institutions, they would seek support such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). While postsecondary food insecurity has not been studied with a representative sample, a recent Congressional report (2018) found over half of low-income, at-risk postsecondary students were not enrolled in SNAP and approximately 15% of students had families that received SNAP but policy exclusions prevent them from receiving support.
Using semi-structured interviews, I will construct a life timeline plotting landmark events with students. Significant and possibly intervening life events such as relationships, births, deaths, housing changes, natural disasters, and employment will be plotted as well as safety net benefit use and periods of food insecurity. Each period of food insecurity will be analyzed to determine whether life circumstances influenced a change in frequency or duration.

The policy content analysis will be informed by post-secondary enrollment stipulations and interview results. Safety net benefit participation does not guarantee food security. However, at a time when students are investing in education and many postsecondary institutions are stretched for funding, safety net benefits could especially be a source of support and support could increase through understanding dimensions of food insecurity.

Describe your experience at Mississippi State University.

I consider Mississippi to be my home state, and I really wanted any doctorate I earned to be from a Mississippi school. It is important to me that I contribute to building Mississippi to me that also means being involved in the department. I have volunteered and planned events with the Alpha Kappa Delta (AKD) chapter at MSU, I attend monthly department colloquiums or lectures, and I serve on the executive committee of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association.

I have spent three years now teaching Contemporary Social Problems at Mississippi State University. I think I still have a way to go before I can say that I am a good instructor, but most days it is fun and every day I learn something new. I love the questions that students ask and what they share with me– it is my favorite part of teaching.

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**SWS-S Graduate Student Paper Award**

On behalf of the SWS-South Awards Committee, it is my pleasure to announce that Victoria Kurdyla (North Carolina State University) is the winner of this year’s Graduate Student Paper Award on the Study of Gender for her paper titled “Disclosure Experiences for Transgender and Nonbinary Abuse Survivors.” As the winner, Victoria was honored at the SWS-S business meeting in Atlanta where she received a check for $300, a lovely plaque, and she has been matched with a mentor as she prepares the paper for publication.

Victoria’s research is compelling and relevant to gender scholarship. As her nomination letter explained, Victoria’s manuscript offers “a clarity of presentation, originality of topic, strong potential for publication, as well as an intellectually challenging presentation.” Indeed, all of this is spot on.

Please join me in congratulating this year’s winner!!

I would like to thank Harry Barbee, Kirsten Dellinger, and Julie Wiest for their contributions to this committee and for thoughtful approaches they took in selecting this year’s awardee. The committee reviewed numerous nominations this year, and all were very strong. It has been a pleasure to work with this wonderfully selfless committee.

For general information about these SWS-S awards please visit [https://sites.google.com/view/sws-south/awards](https://sites.google.com/view/sws-south/awards)

Kris De Welde
Award Committee Chair
This year, SWS-S’s annual Happy Hour and Coffee-for-a-Cause/Silent Auction fundraising events raised $1,721 in donations on behalf of Southerners on New Ground (SONG), a local nonprofit organization in Atlanta, GA. SONG is a regional Queer Liberation organization made up of Black people, people of color, immigrants, undocumented people, people with disabilities, working class and rural and small town, LGBTQ people in the South. SWS-S partnered with SSS’s Committee on Gender & Sexuality to host the third annual Happy Hour event which was held at The Regent Cocktail – who generously donated their swanky rooftop area to us – with live music donated by professional musician, Scott Peeples. This event attracted about 100-120 guests in attendance, as well as SONG employees. Also, the annual Coffee-for-a-Cause/ Silent Auction generated additional donations for SONG. SWS-S created and sold various social justice buttons to help bring in additional funds for our sponsored organization this year. The proceeds we raised will go towards SONG’s Black Mama’s Bail Out. During this event, SONG bails out as many black women, broadly defined, across the South on Mother’s Day. SONG crews also hold events to discuss the devastating impact of money bail and pre-trial incarceration across communities.

We would like to thank all of you who joined us in support of SONG! If you would like to keep supporting SONG’s Black Mama’s Bail Out, please click the following link: https://database.southernersonnewground.org/civicrm/contribute/transact/?reset=1&id=17

-Mandi Barringer
Vision Chair
SSSS/SWS-S Annual Meeting Photo Highlights
SSSS/SWS-S Annual Meeting Photo Highlights

Above Photo: Austin Johnson Jeannette Wade Bobbi
SSSS/SWS-S Annual Meeting Photo Highlights

Above Photo: Representatives from S.O.N.G.

Above Photo: From Coffee-for-a-Cause

Above Photo: Induction of the new SSS President Beth Rushing
The morning of my trip to Denver for the SWS Winter Conference, I arrived at the airport early. I sat and waited patiently to board my flight, mindlessly grading worksheets, sending last-minute emails, and chugging a La Colombe coffee, incessantly refreshing my phone’s weather app. I watched the chance of snow upon arrival grow from 70 to 80 to 100%. There’s no way we’re getting on this flight today, I reasoned with myself. I’m not afraid to fly per se, but the thought of landing in a blizzard (combined with the lethal levels of caffeine coursing through my bloodstream) left me buzzing with nerves and anticipation. I really hoped they would cancel this flight.

Somehow, the plane boarded on time. The captain spoke to us over the intercom almost immediately, letting us know that the seatbelt sign would most likely stay on for the entirety of the trip. Eventually, after hours of bumping and jostling, we landed on swirling patches of snow, kicked up by the force of the wind. If I thought the flight was bad, I was in no way prepared for the fear I experienced as my Lyft driver weaved in and out of traffic, sliding across the ice-packed highway as he shifted lanes. “It’s ok if it takes a little longer to get there,” I yelled to the front seat, my knuckles white, trying to ground myself using the seat beneath me.

I tell this story in part as a metaphor for the way I generally felt in going to SWS for the first time. Honestly, I was a little nervous to be surrounded by the feminist scholars who I idolize, those who have shaped my work and those whose work continually reflects and employs my own values and beliefs. However, I tried to mitigate those fears with the constant reassurance that I had heard throughout the years of how supportive, encouraging, and motivating SWS is for anybody who has attended. Still, I couldn’t help but feel a little on-edge about what to expect.

Needless to say, all of my fears were completely erased the second that I stepped off of the elevator and into the conference. It was so uplifting to see countless smiling faces and greetings, some from people I already knew, others from complete strangers. I recognized many SWS-South members instantly, including Marni Brown, who kindly invited me and my best friend/fellow conference attendee, Bri VanArsdale, to sit with her and some of her mentors at lunch. It was great to have an opportunity to informally converse with such incredible researchers, writers, and teachers.

Not only was the lunch conversation great, but the structure of lunch itself made me feel extremely welcome. I remember looking through the program to find the business meeting—which I knew it was my duty as Graduate Student Liaison to attend—and finding, to my surprise, that the meetings were scheduled to take place over lunch. While this might be common protocol, part of the “taken for granted” components of conferencing to some, this was certainly not the case for me. It made the meeting feel accessible to every single person in attendance, which I really appreciated. This is exactly what feminist scholarship should represent.

I learned a lot at the business meetings. The growing number of attendees, the shrinking revenue, the updated app and website, our goals as an organization, a proposal to rescind awards, a need for anonymous reporting protocol, and a desire to add a graduate student to every single committee were all discussed at length during those meetings. The awards talk took perhaps the largest amount of time, and for good reason. If our goal is feminist consensus, then there are many important points to consider in determining if, how, and when we will rescind awards as a feminist organization. Overall, I was incredibly grateful to be invited to this discussion.

While the conference was filled with fantastic presentations, one of my favorite parts was a roundtable session that I attended on Saturday morning. The theme was LGBTQI+ Acceptance and Marginalization, which very closely fits the theme of my own dissertation work. I listened to Emma Mishel and Tristan Bridges talk about their work on Google search trends’ indications of a “generalized, gender anxiety,” Amy Stone’s experiences conducting an ethnography in Southern festival life as a queer woman, and Madelyn Glasco’s findings of the effect of university safe zone trainings. Penny Harvey served as a wonderful discussant, summarizing commonalities between and raising questions for all of the presenters. While all of the presentations employed different methodologies and were thematically distinct, the table felt cohe-
sive as we were able to bring together some broader conversations around gender and sexuality theories.

In general, my experience in Denver was enriching and rewarding. The flight and ride from the airport in no way represented the rest of my experience, as I had a great time at the conference and exploring the city. (Side note: Jordan Casteel’s “Returning the Gaze” exhibit at the Denver Art Museum is worth an entire trip back to Denver if you didn’t get a chance to see it). I will forever appreciate this opportunity provided to me by SWS-South, and I’m so excited to return to SWS for many years to come!

**Member Announcements & Celebrations**

**Brandy Simula** has several new publications on gender, sexuality, and BDSM: a review essay in *Sociology Compass*, a paper on distinguishing sex and sexual BDSM experiences in *the Journal of Homosexuality*, and a piece (with J.E. Sumerau) on the use of cultural beliefs about gender among BDSM participants in *Sexualities*.

**Myriam Halimi** successfully defended the PhD program in March of 2019 in Educational Sciences, all while during a research stay at George Mason University under the supervision of Dr. Shannon Davis.

**Leslie Hossfeld** received the North Carolina Sociological Association Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Discipline of Sociology in February 2019.

**Alana M. Berry** won the Carl Ross Student Paper Award for the Appalachian Studies Association for the paper titled “The Queerbilly Working Class: Wars of Position, White Male Supremacy and Getting to Liberation in this Queer American Place?”

**Book Release:**

*Families and Aging*  
*By Patricia Drentea*  
*Rowman & Littlefield Press*  
*2019*
2019-2020 SWS-S Officers

President: Marni Brown; Georgia Gwinnett College
Vice President: Brianna Turgen; Jacksonville State University
Secretary: Lyla Byers; Virginia Tech
Treasurer: Cheri Chambers; Saint Leo University
Membership Chair: Penny Harvey; Georgia State University
Awards Committee Chair: Andrea Hunt; University of North Alabama
Vision Committee Chair: Mandi Barringer; University of North Florida
Southern Hand Coordinator: Naomi Simmons; Newberry College
Newsletter Editor: Ashley Vancil-Leap; Mississippi State University
SWS National Liaison: Em Rowe; University of Delaware
Electronic List Keeper: Sandra Godwin; Georgia College & State University
Web Manager: Kara Whaley

Above Photo: Representatives from S.O.N.G.

Above Photo: From Coffee-for-a-Cause

Photo to the left: Induction of the new SSS President Beth Rushing
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Home Address: ____________________________________________________________________________
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Work Address: ____________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

Home Phone: ____________________________          Work Phone: ______________________________

E-mail: _________________________________________________________________________________          Fax: ________________________________

*Please place an asterisk next to your preferred mailing address.

Are you interested in serving on a committee in the Southern Sociological Society? If so, check the committees in which you are interested and for which you feel qualified to serve.

[ ] Committee on the Profession   [ ] Program Committee
[ ] Site Selection Committee     [ ] Elections Committee
[ ] Nominations Committee       [ ] Committee on the Status of Women
[ ] Committee on Honors          [ ] Publications Committee
[ ] Committee on Sociological Practice   [ ] Committee on Racial and Ethnic Minorities
[ ] Membership Committee        [ ] Committee on the Status of Students
[ ] Committee on Sociology in Community and Small Colleges

Are you interested in running for an office or serving on a committee in SWS-South? If so, check the office in which you are interested and for which you feel qualified to serve. Many of the officers have committees. Write "Committee Member" beside the officer with whom you would like to serve.

[ ] President               [ ] Vice President   [ ] Secretary
[ ] Treasurer/Membership Chair [ ] Newsletter Editor [ ] SWS-South Archivist
[ ] SWS-National Liaison

Dues: [ ] $10 New member [ ] $15 Regular [ ] $5 Students, Unemployed, and Retired
(Additional) Contribution: $ ____________ (The membership year runs from April 1 - March 31.)

PLEASE MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM, ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK FOR DUES (MADE OUT TO “SW-SOUTH”) TO:

Carrie L. Smith
Millersville University
Sociology/Anthropology Department
P O Box 1002
Millersville, PA 17551