

ASA Section on Aging & The Life Course

fall
2004

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26 and Going Strong

2005 will be a special year for sociologists in the U.S. as the American Sociological Association turns 100 years old. ASA is planning some special events to celebrate this event at the annual meeting in Philadelphia, but do you know how many years this **Section** has been in existence?

We are just completing our 25th year: ASA's centennial will be year 26 for our Section. So with a quarter of a century to reflect on, we are planning some special activities for 2005 to honor those who have served our Section and to reflect on changes in our field of study.

Of course, one such change is the move toward more of a life course perspective on aging. As you may know, the Section was originally known as "Aging," but is familiar to most of us as "Aging and the Life Course." The name change was not without some contention. Indeed, the first proposal for a name change failed, but most seasoned investigators know how to revise and resubmit.

One of the elements of the life course perspective that has relevance for our Section's activities is an appreciation for how history and biography intersect. There are normative experiences for human lives, but these experiences may have very different meanings depending upon the historical setting. For 2005, we are planning to ponder the historical changes in the Section as well as how sociologists study aging and the life course. In short, I believe the 2005 meeting will be intellectually vibrant, but one which will also have a special human touch. We hope to gather as many of our past chairs together to honor our legacy and contemplate the future.

Our Section Day in 2005 will be Sunday, August 14. Our meeting should be special in many other respects. I am especially looking forward to the first *Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award Lecture* to be given by **Linda K. George** of Duke University. Also, **Ellen Idler** is organizing a session entitled "Religion and Aging Through the Life Course," and **Duane Alwin** is organizing a special session on "Milestones in the Study of Aging and the Life Course."

To get ready for the annual meeting, let me mention two items:

- January 15, 2005 is the deadline for open paper submissions online. *All paper submissions* for 2005 must be made via the online submission system.
- Note in the call for submissions that we are moving for the first time to "Combination Roundtables." Don't be confused. This is simply the title that ASA prefers to organize our mix of Refereed Roundtables and Research Groups. Under the patient leadership of David Ekerdt, there may be some new opportunities in the Combination Roundtables.

I hope you will be able to join us at our annual meeting in Philadelphia next August. 26 and going strong.

*Ken Ferraro
Section Chair*

Section Business Meeting - 2004

The Business Meeting of the Section on Aging and the Life Course convened on Saturday, August 17, 2004, at the Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association held in San Francisco, California. Eileen Crimmins, Section Chair, presided.

2003 Minutes

The minutes of the 2003 Business Meeting (taken by Eleanor Palo Stoller) were distributed and approved).

	\$1,405.00	Change (2003-2002) (Increase of 111.2%)
	\$1,597.00	Change (2002-2001) (Increase of 126.4%)
	\$ 137.78	Change (2001-2000) (Increase of 8.2%)

Report of the Treasurer

(Eleanor Palo Stoller)

Net Assets:

\$8,256.00	June 30, 2004	
\$8,031.00	June 30, 2003	
\$7,192.00	June 30, 2002	
\$8,787.82	June 30, 2001	
\$6,936.02	June 30, 2000	
\$ 225.00	Change (2004-2003) (Increase of 2.8%)	
\$ 839.00	Change (2003-2002) (Increase of 11.7%)	
-\$1,595.82	Change (2002-2001) (Decrease of 18.2%)	
\$1,851.80	Change (2001-2000) (Increase of 26.7%)	

INCOME

Dues Income:

\$ 451	2004 (first and second quarter only; comparable figure for 2003 was \$594)	
\$1,238	2003	
\$1,199	2002	
\$1,433	2001	
\$1,353	2000	
\$ 37	Change (2003-2002) (Increase of 3.1%)	
-\$ 234	Change (2002-2001) (Decrease of 16.3%)	
\$ 80	Change (2001-2000) (Increase of 5.9%)	

ASA Allocation for Section:

\$2,027	2004	
\$1,980	2003	
\$1,960	2002	
\$2,224	2001	
\$2,224	2000	
\$ 47	Change (2004-2003) (Increase of 2.4%)	
\$ 20	Change (2003-2002) (Increase of 1.0%)	
-\$ 264	Change (2002-2001) (Decrease of 11.9%)	
\$ 0	Change (2001-2000) (No Change)	

Other Income - Actual

\$ 675.00	Proceeds from 2003 Book Raffle
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EXPENSES

Reception and Annual Meeting Costs (including awards):

\$2,311.36	August 2004 (estimate of combined expenses for annual meeting except for pending estimate of student reception)
\$2,668.00	August 2003 (combined expenses for annual meeting)
\$1,263.00	August 2002. (combined expenses for annual meeting).
\$1,818.99	August 2001 (combined expenses for annual meeting)
\$1,681.21	August 2000 (combined expenses for annual meeting)

Cost of Section Newsletter:

\$ 385.00	2004 (1st and 2nd quarter only)
\$ 1,270.00	2003 Total
\$ 1,359.00	2002 Total
\$ 1,280.71	2001 Total

SUMMARY:

The 2004 budget reflects an increase of 2.8 percent in net assets over 2003. This slight increase in net assets was achieved despite decisions by Council to authorize two additional costs for the 2003 meeting: (1) the award of a travel supplement for the Career Award Recipient and (2) the decision to sponsor an evening reception the night before the regularly scheduled Section Day as a membership recruitment strategy. Our ability to maintain modest growth despite these additional expenses reflects the success of the book raffle as well as a slight increase in dues income and in the Section allocation. Expenses for the reception following the 2004 Distinguished Scholar lecture will be offset by a \$1,000 contribution from the University of Iowa, in honor of this year's lecturer, Fred Wolinsky, who holds the John W. Colloton Chair in Health Management and Policy at the University of Iowa College of Public Health.

Eileen Crimmins thanked Eleanor Stoller for her contribution during the three years she served as Secretary-Treasurer of the Section.

Book Raffle Committee

(Amy Pienta):

(The following is an expanded version of the report given at the Business Meeting.) The 2004 Section on Aging and Life Course Book Raffle was a success this year thanks to the generosity of several academic publishers and organizations and many Section members and friends of the Section who purchased 134 raffle tickets. This year the raffle raised \$670 to support Section activities.

We would like to recognize the publishers, organizations and individuals who donated prizes for the book raffle. In total, we received 4 journal subscriptions and 14 books to award as prizes. We thank the following for their generosity in supporting our fundraising event:

AltaMira Press (3 books)
American Society on Aging (1 journal subscription)
Baywood Publishing Co., Inc. (3 books)
Carroll Estes (2 books)
Haworth Press (3 books)
Sage Publications (3 journal subscriptions)
Temple University Press (2 books)
University of Michigan Press (1 book)

Thanks to all who supported our fundraising event this year.

(continued)

Election Results

Chair of the Nominations Committee was David Ekerdt; Committee members were Jacqueline Angel and Vern Bengtsen.

Chair-Elect: Phyllis Moen
Secretary-Treasurer: Eliza Pavalko
Council: Merrill Silverstein
Council: Jill Suitor
Student Member: Sharon Irving

Membership Report

(Deborah Carr):

(The following is an expanded version of the report given at the Business Meeting.) Thank you to members of the Aging & Life Course (ALC) Section for your cooperation following our recent membership dip. As of July 2004, our Section's membership had dropped to 458. Our numbers have since climbed back up to the levels achieved over the past three years: as of September 30, 2004, our Section claims 484 members. This number includes 118 student members.

We used several strategies to turn around our unexpected dip in membership. First, ASA provided me with lists of lapsed Section members as well as lapsed ASA members. The former includes persons who currently belong to ASA, but who have let their membership in the ALC Section lapse in recent years. The latter includes former ALC Section members who no longer belong to ASA. I emailed each person on these lists, reminded them of the special benefits of Section membership, and invited them to re-join our Section. Many lapsed members were quite surprised to learn that they were no longer Section members, and most attributed their non-membership to either oversight or difficulties in navigating the ASA membership website.

Second, I emailed all current ASA members, reminded them of the benefits of Section membership, and encouraged them to either renew their

membership or to encourage (or even sponsor) the Section membership of a student or colleague. In the future, recruiting students may be the key to our Section's vitality and strength. All Section members are encouraged to help recruit student members, and can remind student members of our Section's many benefits, including a student paper competition, and a highly successful and well-attended "dinner and drinks" event at ASA. As a Section, we are not allowed to purchase memberships for students, but as individuals we can pay for as many student memberships as we want to purchase. As a reminder, Section memberships for ASA members cost just \$13 for regular members, \$6 for students, and \$10 for low-income members.

Awards and Recognition

Graduate Student Paper Award (presented by Award Committee Chair Merrill Silverstein; Committee members were Dale Dannefer and Karl Pillemer): **Miles Taylor** and **Amelie Quesnel-Vallee, Duke University**. The title of their co-authored paper is "Socioeconomic Status across the Life Course and Mental Health in Adulthood: The Interplay of Ascribed and Achieved Status."

Distinguished Scholar Award (presented by Selection Committee Chair Kenneth Ferraro; Committee members were Duane Alwin and Ellen Idler): **Linda George, Duke University**. George will present the award lecture next year. As approved by Council, the award will be known from this time forth as the Matilda White Riley Award. (Please see the related article by Kenneth Ferraro in this newsletter issue.)

Eileen Crimmins transferred leadership of the Section to **Kenneth Ferraro**, new chair of the Section on Aging & the Life Course.

Information for the Section Business Meeting notes was provided by Eleanor Stoller.

Section on Aging & the Life Course

Chair

Kenneth Ferraro
Center on Aging and the Life Course
Purdue University
Stone Hall
700 W. State Street
West Lafayette, IN 47907-2059

Chair-Elect

Phyllis Moen
Department of Sociology
University of Minnesota
1123 Social Science Bldg.
267 19th Ave. South
Minneapolis, MN 55455

Past-Chair

Eileen Crimmins
Andrus Gerontology Ctr.
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0191

Secretary-Treasurer

Eliza Pavalko ('07)
Center on Aging and Health
Case Western Reserve University
10900 Euclid Avenue
Cleveland, OH 44106-7124

Council

Dale Dannefer ('05)
Karl Pillemer ('05)
Christine Himes ('06)
Fredric Wolinsky ('06)
Merrill Silverstein ('07)
Jill Suitor ('07)

Student Members

Maureen Benjamins ('05)
Sharon Irving ('06)

Looking for a Tax Deduction? Donate to the Section

You may make a donation to the Section on Aging and the Life Course and include it in your tax deductions. Your donation will help the Section by providing funds for its annual activities, especially the Student Paper Award. Make your check payable to the American Sociological Association. Mail your check, along with a brief letter requesting that the donation be placed into the account of the Section on Aging and the Life Course, to:

American Sociological Association
1307 New York Avenue, NW
Suite 700
Washington, DC 20005-4701

*Photos from the 99th ASA annual meeting are available for viewing on the Internet, courtesy of Jacqueline Angel and Section webmaster Ron Abeles:
<http://members2.clubphoto.com/ronald190002/>.*

Join a Research Group, or Start One

Research Groups have been part of the Aging and Life Course Section's activities since 1990. In that time, many Section members have participated in Research Groups, networked, made good professional friends, and had an ongoing place on the annual meeting program. Research Groups are the intersection of the scholarly and the social.

Sociologists with similar interests meet during the Section's Roundtables session to discuss members' current or planned research, recent books and articles of interest, ideas for funding sources, and where the cutting edge is in their specialty. With some of the groups, formal papers are presented; with others the exchange is more informal. New faces are always welcome at the table.

Six Research Groups are active in the Section and organizing for the 2005 program. The groups and their chairs are :

1. **Research Group on Aging Well** – Tanya Fusco Johnson, tjohnson@uscs.edu
2. **Research Group on Comparative Social Gerontology** – Eldon Wegner, wegner@hawaii.edu
3. **Research Group on the Life Course** – Cheryl Elman, cheryl2@uakron.edu
4. **Research Group on Parent-Child Relations in the Later Years** – Deborah Merrill, dmerrill@clarku.edu
5. **Research Group on Race and Ethnicity across the Life Course** – Sherrill Sellers, slsellers@facstaff.wisc.edu
6. **Research Group on Work and Retirement** – Maxi Szinovacz, maxres@visi.net

For 2005, some of the Research Groups will be organized around paper submissions and some will be conducted as informal discussion tables. If you are interested in the areas listed above, contact the chair to find out how you can participate. If you want to start a Research Group around a new topic, please contact David Ekerdt (dekerdt@ku.edu) for details.

Section Officers, Committees, and Other Assignments: 2004-2005

<p>Chair Kenneth Ferraro</p>	<p>Council Student Members Maureen Benjamins ('05) Sharon Irving ('06)</p>	<p>Graduate Student Paper Award Janet M. Wilmoth (Chair) Christine Himes Fredric Wolinsky</p>	<p>Book Raffle Committee Amy Pienta (Chair)</p>
<p>Chair-Elect Phyllis Moen</p>	<p>Program Committee Kenneth Ferraro (Chair) Duane Alwin Ellen Idler</p>	<p>Centennial Celebration Committee Kenneth Ferraro (Chair) Ronald P. Abeles Kristine Ajrouch Philippa J. Clarke Patricia Drentea Shalon Irving Jennie Kronenfeld Tetyana Pylyiv</p>	<p>Membership Chair Deborah Carr</p>
<p>Past-Chair Eileen Crimmins</p>	<p>Committee on Nominations Eileen Crimmins (Chair) (+ 3 members to be appointed)</p>	<p>Listserv Manager Tay McNamara</p>	<p>Homepage Manager Ronald P. Abeles</p>
<p>Secretary-Treasurer Eliza Pavalko</p>	<p>Distinguished Scholar Award Phyllis Moen (Chair) Dale Dannefer Karl Pillemer</p>	<p>Newsletter Editor Laurie R. Hatch</p>	
<p>Council Dale Dannefer ('05) Karl Pillemer ('05) Christine Himes ('06) Fredric Wolinsky ('06) Merrill Silverstein ('07) Jill Suitor ('07)</p>			

- Distinguished Scholar Award - *What's in a Name?*

Discussion surfaced several years ago about naming the Distinguished Scholar Award of the Section on Aging and the Life Course. The ASA Section Manual states that a "Section award may be named in honor of a person or people" (p. 13), and many ASA Sections have done this. Thus, members of the Distinguished Scholar Award Committee raised the issue with the Council in 2003-2004. Council expressed interest in exploring the idea.

The Committee, therefore, explored possible names, discussed them with various members of the Section, and proposed that the Award will henceforth be named. Council unanimously endorsed the proposal that "The Distinguished Scholar Award for the Section on Aging and the Life Course will be named the **Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award.**" This announcement was made at the 2004 annual meeting. Matilda was unable to attend the 2004 meeting, but indicated that she plans to attend the 2005 annual meeting in Philadelphia, at which ASA will celebrate its centennial.

Matilda White Riley won the Distinguished Scholar award in 1988 and served as Chair of the Section on Aging and the Life Course in 1989-1990. She also was elected the 77th President of the American Sociological Association (1986). Her contributions to the sociology of aging are far-reaching, but most hinge on her development of the age stratification perspective. The three-volume set *Aging and Society* helped sociologists see more clearly that age is a structural feature of any society or group. It also deepened our understanding of aging over the life course, cohort flow, and the interplay between aging and social change.

Matilda White Riley's career wove together successful roles as a professor (now Emerita at both Rutgers University and Bowdoin College), executive director of the ASA (1949 to 1960), and Associate Director of the National Institute on Aging for Behavioral and Social Research (1979 to 1991). Naming the award in her honor is one way to show our appreciation for her contributions to the study of aging and the life course.

Linda George Named First Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar

Linda K. George, Professor of Sociology at Duke University, has received the *Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award* from the Section on Aging and the Life Course of the ASA.

Linda George is well known to most sociologists of aging and the life course. In addition to her appointment in the Duke Department of Sociology, Linda is Senior Fellow in Center for the Study of Aging and Human Development and Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Duke University Medical Center. Linda has balanced research and several administrative roles over the years, even while being named an award-winning teacher (receiving the Trinity College Distinguished Teaching Award in 1991).

Linda George received her B.A. and M.A. in sociology from Miami University of Ohio, then completed the Ph.D. in sociology at Duke in 1975. And she has remained at Duke. After a postdoctoral fellowship in aging with the Duke University School of Medicine, she quickly rose through the academic ranks with a keen analytic mind and plenty of hard work.

Professor George is the author of about 200 refereed journal articles and 5 books. She is well known for her research on role transitions, health and well-being, social support, and religion in later life.

According to the *Web of Science*, Linda is one the most highly-cited social scientists in the world. Those who wrote to nominate her spoke clearly of her distinguished scholarly achievements:

- Many of us regard her as one of the most influential sociologists of her generation.
- Professor George's record means she has actually deserved this award for many years. Her record is truly stellar on any metric – productivity, service, scholarly impact – you name it.
- Her work is a model of the sort of reading one would recommend to a graduate seminar in aging and the life course.
- What makes Linda so exceptional is that she is someone with strong academic judgment, scientific integrity, and theoretical breadth and depth.
- She has stimulated the work of so many of us, who feel we are her "students," and has been a role model for blending scholarship and citizenship, including her willingness to produce *multiple* editions of the *Handbook of Aging and the Social Sciences*.

Linda George will present the *Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award* lecture at the 2005 annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Philadelphia.

Selection Committee, Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award
Ken Ferraro, Chair; Ellen Idler and Duane Alwin

Section Members' News and New Publications

Ron Abeles has received two awards for career contributions to psychology from the American Psychological Association. He has been selected as one of the recipients of the American Psychological Association (APA) Meritorious Research Service Commendation. This commendation was initiated by the APA Board of Scientific Affairs to recognize outstanding contributions to psychological science through service within the federal government in program development and research facilitation. He also received the APA Division of Health Psychology's 2004 Career Service to Health Psychology Award.

Hannah Brückner, *Gender Inequality in the Life Course: Change and Stability in West Germany, 1975-1995*. New York: Aldine DeGruyter, 2004.

The Journal of Men's Studies will publish a special issue devoted to older men this fall. Section member **Sarah Matthews** is among the contributors, with a co-authored chapter (with Ruth E. Dunkle) on "Social support resources of poor widowed men during the depression."

Jill Quadagno, *One Nation, Uninsured: Why the US Has No National Health Insurance*, Oxford, 2005. This forthcoming book includes a chapter on the origins of Medicare and a chapter on long term care insurance for the frail elderly.

Calls for Section Award Nominations

Matilda White Riley Distinguished Scholar Award

This award honors a scholar who has shown exceptional achievement in research, theory, policy analysis, or who has otherwise advanced knowledge of aging and the life course. Letters of nomination should describe the candidate's contributions to the study of aging and the life course. Additional letters of support are encouraged but not required. Nominations should be submitted by April 5, 2005 to: Phyllis Moen, McKnight Presidential Chair, Sociology, University of Minnesota, 267 19th Avenue South #909 SST, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455; phone: 612-625-5483; email: phylmoen@umn.edu

Graduate Student Paper Award

The Section on Aging and the Life Course invites original student papers on any topic related to sociology of aging and the life course. Papers co-authored with faculty members are ineligible. Papers already published are eligible if they appeared in print after January 1, 2003. Self-nominations are encouraged. An award of \$250 is presented to the winner at the Business Meeting of the Section, held during the ASA Annual Meeting in August of each year. Send three (3) copies of the nominated paper in the ASA format by May 3, 2005 to: Janet M. Wilmoth, Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University, 426 Eggers Hall, Syracuse, NY 13244; phone: 315-443-5053; email: jwilmoth@maxwell.syr.edu

Call for Teaching Materials

Please send syllabi and other teaching materials to be included in the revised edition of *Teaching the Sociology of Aging and the Life Course* (ASA Teaching Resources Center) to Diane Zablotsky, University of North Carolina - Charlotte, Sociology Department, 9201 University City Blvd., Charlotte, NC 28223-0001; email: dlzablot@email.uncc.edu

Postdoctoral Position

The University of Minnesota is pleased to announce a postdoctoral position, a National Research Service Award, sponsored by the NIMH, on the psychosocial determinants of mental health and adjustment, with emphasis on childhood, adolescence, and the transition to adulthood. Full-time, 12-month research training is provided. The appointment is for 2 years maximum, subject to review at the end of the first year. U.S. citizens or residents are eligible. The award provides an annual stipend in accordance with NRSA guidelines, tuition, fees and medical insurance. Postdoctoral candidates, who have received a Ph.D. in a social science discipline or an equivalent terminal degree, such as an M.D., public health, or nursing degree by June 2004, should provide a letter describing current research interests, a complete vita, university transcript, three letters of recommendation, and samples of written work. For full consideration, send postdoctoral application materials to Professor Jeylan Mortimer at the Life Course Center, Department of Sociology, 1014 Social Sciences Building, 267-19th Avenue South, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN 55455, for admittance prior to June 30, 2005. Review of applications will begin November 15, 2004. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.