

## **Report of the 2009-10 Local Arrangements Committee, Atlanta, GA**

Chair: Wendy Simonds, Georgia State University  
Committee Member: Beth Cavalier, Georgia State University

**Annual Meeting Site:** This year's site is the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel at 165 Courtland Street, Atlanta, GA

**January 29-Feb. 31 Site Visit:** Michele and JoAnn visited Atlanta to tour the conference site and finalize meeting arrangements. I identified several restaurants for the Board dinner we ate two of them while they were here, and settled on Hsu's. We also ate at the hotel together and discussed menus for the Awards Banquet. The cost is 41.47 per person (& a la carte for vegetarians).

The ASA hotels are a block away, so we did not have to concern ourselves with the logistics of getting to ASA.

**Program:** I wrote a "Welcome to Atlanta" piece, and Beth wrote a welcome for graduate students (even though she no longer is a graduate student – kudos to Dr. Cavalier!) for the SSSP website and both the preliminary and final programs. In appreciation for her work, the committee is paying for her ticket to the SSSP awards banquet from the local arrangements committee budget.

**Meeting Promotion/Media:** I wrote a press release that was improved by Hector, JoAnn, and Michele. I contacted local television stations, radio, newspapers, and Sociology Departments in the Atlanta area, and emailed them short and long versions of the press release.

**Directions to and from Stanford Court Hotel and ASA hotels:** I provided Michele with walking directions from the Sheraton Hotel to the ASA hotels.

**AIDS Fundraiser:** In late January and February, I asked people in the know about AIDS organizations located in or near Atlanta to recommend potential recipients for our annual donation. I sent JoAnn a list describing the organizations and their missions (culled from websites). JoAnn decided on Jerusalem House, which provides over 62% of Atlanta's permanent supportive housing designated for homeless and low-income individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS. JoAnn changed the format of the event honoring an HIV/AIDS organization, so that we are not having an auction or a band, which I think is a fabulous idea, and which made my job much easier.

**Materials Stored and Delivered to the Hotel:** Books for the book exhibit are going directly to the hotel, and Michele is driving down with the registration supplies. This also made my job much easier than the last time I served in this capacity.

### **Submitted by:**

Wendy Simonds  
2009 - 2010 LAC Chair