

Southern Labor Studies Association

Message from the President

2009 was a busy year for the Southern Labor Studies Association, whose mission is to promote the study, teaching, and preservation of southern labor history. Fortunately for me, past president Heather Thompson (formerly UNC-Charlotte, now Temple) spent three years putting the organization on a secure footing, while also organizing SLSA events at other conferences. The last of these included a wonderful labor history bus tour and a luncheon at the Southern Historical Association meeting in Louisville, organized with the help of the Southern Industrialization Project. At the luncheon, Heather gave an eye-opening talk on the prison industrial complex, which has expanded with alarming speed and virtually no regulation in recent decades. Who knew that products from Victoria Secrets' undies to Dell computers and Starbucks cups are made by prisoners, increasingly in assembly plants built within prison walls? I'm exceedingly grateful to Heather both for her talk (which I've already cribbed in lectures) and for organizing fall 2009 events so I didn't have to.

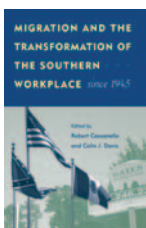
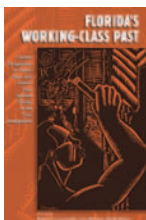
Now that the SLSA is well established, Jenny Brooks (our VP and Program Committee Chair) and I, along with a slate

of old and new officers, have begun to look for ways to expand the organization's activities. This newsletter is the first product of that effort. Our second effort is a syllabus exchange, which has been organized by Max Krochmal. Max has been collecting syllabi on a wide range of topics relating to southern labor history, and will make them available to members only when we relaunch the website this spring. If you have not already contributed your syllabi, please do! (*See the syllabus exchange announcement on p. 7*). If you don't have a southern labor history course per se, feel free to contribute syllabi with relevant content, such as material on slavery or forced labor generally, the Global South, southern culture, etc. – you decide.

When the new website is launched, we expect it to include a wiki where members will be able to post announcements of new archival collections and exhibits, as well as share news of interesting archival or oral history finds related to southern labor history. More on that down the road.

In the meantime, we've got events to note on your calendars. First, at the Conference on Race, Labor, and Citizenship in the Post-
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Book Spotlight



The University Press of Florida has published two edited volumes of articles representing the participants and papers of the 2002 and 2004 Southern Labor Studies Conferences. Robert Cassanello, Melanie Shell-Weiss, and Colin J. Davis edited the collections. The first volume is *Florida's Working-Class Past: Current Perspectives on Labor, Race, and Gender from Spanish Florida to the New Immigration*. The chapters examine labor history from Spanish colonial Florida to the present through topics such as Indian labor tribute, slavery, black Seminoles and Seminole relations, as well as the state's union movements throughout the twentieth century. The second collection is *Migration and the Transformation of the Southern Workplace since 1945*. The contributors examine the intersection of migration and labor in the South since World War II. The collection is evenly divided between agricultural and urban labor as well as domestic and international migration. The list of contributors to both collections are Edward E. Baptist, Robert Cassanello, Thomas A. Castillo, Colin J. Davis, Monica Richmond Gisolfi, Cindy Hahamovitch, Alex Lichtenstein, Mark Long, Kelly Minor, Raymond A. Mohl, Mariel Rose, Melanie Shell-Weiss, Tamara Spike, Steve Stiffler, Brent R. Weisman, and Robert H. Woodrum.

Remembering Crystal Lee Sutton, the “Real Norma Rae”

Joey Fink

University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

On Saturday, January 9, 2010, activists, scholars, friends, and family gathered in Greensboro, North Carolina, to celebrate the life and legacy of Crystal Lee Sutton, the “real Norma Rae.” Sutton passed away September 11, 2009 after battling several years with meningioma, a form of brain cancer that is usually benign. “I call my cancer a journey,” she said in a June 2008 interview with *The Burlington Times-News*, “and it is interesting to see where it goes. It reminds you to live each day to the best you can.”

The spirited hope and courage with which Sutton approach-

ed her fight with cancer was matched only by her commitment to the fight for justice and respect for workers. Her activism on behalf of workers and the poor began in 1973 when Sutton was working at the J.P. Stevens textile mill in Roanoke Rapids and became involved in the Textile Workers Union of America’s organizing drive. After copying down an anti-union notice posted in the mill by management, Sutton was fired and arrested for disorderly conduct. Her moment of defiance before police forced her out of the mill, standing atop a table holding a sign that said “UNION” high above her

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(Message from the President, Cont.)

Emancipation South in Charleston, South Carolina, March 11-13, we’ll have a roundtable titled “Forced Labor in the South after Slavery: the Longue Durée.” Heather Thompson will chair and comment. Alex Lichtenstein (FIU), Talitha L. LeFlouria (FAU), Douglas Blackmon (*Wall Street Journal*), and Robert Chase (Case Western) will present.

Our next general meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 8 at the Organization of American Historians/LAWCHA meeting in Washington, D.C. If all goes as planned, our business meeting will be brief, and most of our two hour block will be devoted to a panel discussion titled “Challenging Teachers and Teaching Challenges in Southern Labor History,” featuring Bob Korstad (Duke), Brett Rushforth (William and Mary), and yours truly, with Joseph McCartin (Georgetown) as chair. Bob will discuss spreading the gospel of southern labor history to high school teachers, Brett will discuss a freshman seminar on Indian slavery in which his class made a documentary film (and lived to tell

the tale), and I’ll discuss a class oral and archival history project in which eleven students produced one 150-page paper on the history of work at the College of William and Mary. You can see the paper at dspace.swem.wm.edu/handle/10288/411. Thanks to Jenny Brooks for making all these arrangements.

Last, but certainly not least, we have now scheduled the next Southern Labor Studies Conference. This is particularly good news since our main reason for forming the organization four years ago was to put the conference on a more secure footing. Thanks to Alex Lichtenstein and Traci Drummond, our Conference Committee co-chairs, the call for papers is now circulating (*see the CFP on p. 4*). The conference, which will be hosted by the Southern Labor Archives, and co-sponsored by the Labor and Working Class History Association, will take place in Atlanta, April 7-10, 2011 (this will also be LAWCHA’s annual meeting). Appropriately, since the conference will celebrate the Southern Labor Archives’ 40th anniversary, the conference theme will be “Memory and Forgetting: Labor History and the Archive.” Keynote ad-

dresses will be given by Bob Korstad (Duke) and Alessandro Portelli (University of Rome).

Though we’ve gotten a lot done in the past few months, we could still use more help promoting the organization and organizing its activities. We sponsor panels at conferences year round, so if you’d like to organize a panel at the ASA, the Oral History Association, or any other conference, please contact Jenny Brooks (jeb0002@auburn.edu). If you’re interested in outreach to teachers, contact Bill Obrecht (bill@vahistorical.org). If you can help with outreach to graduate students, contact Max Krochmal (max.krochmal@gmail.com). If you’d like to serve on a committee, please contact me at slsa@wm.edu. Please urge colleagues and graduate students to join the organization. If you’d like SLSA bookmarks to distribute, I’d be happy to send you some.

Thanks to those of you who shared your energy and ideas over the past six months. I look forward to seeing all of you in Atlanta in 2011.

Cindy Hahamovitch
SLSA President

Report from the Labor Committee

David Zonderman
North Carolina State University

Public workers in North and South Carolina labor under especially challenging conditions when it comes to organizing and collective bargaining. Not only is the entire American labor movement facing hard times, not only is the South particularly tough territory for organizing, not only are the Carolinas at the bottom of the union density chart, but South Carolina law is nearly silent on public workers' rights to bargain and North Carolina has the dreaded General Statute 95-98 that bans all collective bargaining for public workers.

In the midst of this hostile climate, SLSA members have been working closely with public workers throughout the Carolinas to challenge restrictions on their rights and change draconian laws. For nearly two years, workers from the city of Charleston's environmental services department have waged a fierce battle to gain recognition for Local 1199B, part of the National Union of Hospital and Healthcare Employees-AFSCME. These workers have complained of abusive supervisors, an ambiguous system of promotions that pits workers against one another, and treacherous working conditions. City officials maintain that the state's right-to-work laws prevent them from negotiating with public sector employees, but union supporters counter that no South Carolina law forbids public employees from collectively bargaining, nor can any group of organized workers be denied the right to meet and confer with management. Tensions with the city came to a head this past spring at a mass demon-

stration at the City Hall, during which workers demanded to know how the Council could pass an ordinance protecting the carriage horses that tote tourists, while denying human beings any such consideration.

More recently, department supervisors have targeted union leaders in a campaign of harassment that has led to one worker's dismissal for allegedly vandalizing a truck. The union is fighting back and has provided him with strong support. "If you're a public servant you deserve dignity, respect, and acknowledgment that you're doing a service for the community," said Richard Polite, a twelve-year sanitation department veteran, who adds that the workers' demands are not primarily economic but center on basic human rights. The workers have enjoyed strong support from students and faculty at the College of Charleston and The Citadel, and have been publicizing their struggle through the South Carolina Progressive Network, the Committees of Correspondence, the South Carolina AFL-CIO, Black Workers for Justice, and other labor-left networks.

In North Carolina, unions that represent public workers have formed the HOPE Coalition (Hear Our Public Employees) to repeal General Statute 95-98. Though these unions are not allowed to bargain collectively for their public-sector members, they do support workers with grievances, and are pressing for "meet and confer" rights with supervisors and managers. The co-

(Continued on p. 7)

The National Urban League Responds to Economic Crisis in South Carolina

Kathryn Silva
University of South Carolina,
Columbia

Currently, millions of workers and small business owners are feeling the pinch of the economic downturn. With rising home foreclosures and unemployment rates, many working-class Americans are experiencing difficulty make ends meet. Although government interventions have helped to some degree, in places such as South Carolina, local agencies, including the National Urban League (NUL), have stepped in to help their constituencies – primarily working- and middle-class Americans. The mission at the inception of the NUL, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year, was to address the employment and housing needs of African Americans escaping the Jim Crow South to new to urban centers. The task of the NUL today remains closely tied to its original purpose. As Marc H. Morial, the National Urban League President and CEO explained to *Business Wire* in May 2006, "The new civil rights movement of the 21st century is economic empowerment[,] and home ownership is one of the keys to closing the economic gaps that exist between communities of color and other communities."

In places such as South Carolina, the need is great for organizations such as the NUL. Unemployment and foreclosure rates have remained high over the past few years. Since South Carolina is a "right to work" state, rising unemployment in the African American community is even more pressing. With unemployment rates reported in November of 2009 at 15.7%

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Call for Papers

Memory and Forgetting: Labor History and the Archive Southern Labor Studies Conference Atlanta, Georgia April 7-10, 2011

**"The struggle against tyranny is the struggle of memory against forgetting."
From *The Uprising of '34*, courtesy of Milan Kundera**

Students of colonial and post-colonial societies have thought about how the very materials historians rely on to reconstruct the past – “the archive” – themselves are constituted by that past, rather than a transparent window onto it.

To coincide with the 40th anniversary of the Southern Labor Archives, the 15th Southern Labor Studies Conference proposes to turn a similar self-critical gaze on the materials labor historians rely on to produce the field of “labor history.” How does the very process of locating, constructing, and organizing the “archive” of labor and working-class history shape (and constrain) what historians and archivists treat as labor, the worker, or the working class? How have shifting archival fashions changed our understanding of labor’s history? How has the “archive,” in the broadest sense, abetted or impeded the “struggle of memory against forgetting.”

In asking these questions, the SLSC invites proposals that look at archival practice in libraries, museums, state governments, universities, businesses, unions, and other institutions that play an important role in documenting – and thus filtering – labor’s past, especially the past of the working class in the U.S. South. Other proposals might examine how labor historians have used particular methodologies to construct their own “archive” – most obviously through the practice of oral history, but also social activism, filmmaking, collecting, public history, memorialization, or other forms of historical practice and engagement. A third genre of proposals could look at what Antoinette Burton has called “archive stories,” experiential descriptions of archival encounters that illuminate (or obscure) certain aspects of the working-class past. Still others may explore the role of the archive itself in the process of memory and forgetting – how has archivalization of the past fixed certain aspects of labor history in memory, while consigning others to the realm of forgetting? Finally, we invite proposals that consider how archival work of all sorts can be linked to particular moments of working-class struggle.

In addition to papers and panels addressing the above themes, the SLSC also invites proposals that examine the history of the southern working class more generally.

The Committee urges submissions of complete panels, including 2-3 papers and a commentator. We also invite roundtables, collective discussions of teaching, audio or visual presentations, and any other less orthodox formats. Proposals should include 300-word abstracts for each paper and a one-page c.v. for all participants.

Please submit proposals by October 1, 2010, to: alichtens@gmail.com and tdrummond@gsu.edu.

Keynote Addresses by:

Robert Korstad, Duke University
Alessandro Portelli, University of Rome

Co-Sponsored by:

The Southern Labor Archives, Georgia State University Library
Southern Labor Studies Association
Labor and Working Class History Association

(Remembering Crystal Lee Sutton, Cont.)

head, was immortalized in the 1979 Academy Award winning movie *Norma Rae*. Sutton's activism took many forms and connected struggles for unionization with the women's movement. In 1974, she appeared in the pilot episode of PBS' *Woman Alive!*, featuring Gloria Steinem and Lily Tomlin, and articulated the need for union representation to protect working women and promote gender equity on the shop floor and in union halls. In 1980, the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union of America (ACTWU) sent her on a speaking tour to promote the union's boycott of J.P. Stevens products. As the "real Norma Rae," Sutton travelled across the country and to Canada and the Soviet Union in support of workers' rights to organize for better wages, fair treatment, and safe working conditions.

The January 2010 memorial for Sutton, sponsored by the North and South Carolina AFL-CIOs and the Triad Jobs with Justice, drew about a hundred people to the Glenwood Community Center. Speakers attested to the impact Sutton had on the labor movement. President of the North Carolina AFL-CIO, James Andrews, commended Sutton for her courage and leadership as a worker and a woman, noting the resonance her story has for women, immigrants, and people of color in the increasingly diverse southern labor force. Hands shot up around the room when Richard Koritz, a representative of the Letter Carriers Union and close friend of Sutton for many years, asked how many women in attendance had ever been called "Norma Rae" by a friend or foe of the labor movement. Keynote speaker John Wilhelm, President of Unite Here, asserted that the labor movement, now more than ever, needs "a thousand Crystal Lees."

In 2007, Sutton donated her personal papers to Alamance Community College, a place "where the working poor can come . . . and get a new start to life," she maintained. The collection includes press clippings, correspondence, union material, field notes from Sutton's time as an organizer, transcripts of speeches she gave, and books and films on a variety of labor, civil, and women's rights issues. The collection is a wonderful resource for historians and activists. Visiting and resident scholars in the Triangle area can contact the Learning Resource Center at Alamance Community College (336-506-4186) or visit www.crystalleesutton.com/about.html for more information.

The labor movement lost a steadfast advocate for social justice, but Sutton's contributions and commitment will not be forgotten. "We are fortunate indeed that the history of this remarkable woman is preserved," Wilhelm noted in his address. "It is to her history that we must look for hope, inspiration, and guidance." Southern labor historians must continue to ensure that the extraordinary stories of ordinary people like Crystal Lee are not forgotten.

The Southern Labor Archives New Acquisitions and Recently-Opened Collections

New acquisitions include: International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Local 527 (Conyers, GA), records; Graphic Communications Conference/International Brother of Teamsters Local 527-S, records; Jim Ashlock Collection of Eastern Airlines, correspondence, annual reports, and periodicals (1930s-1980s); Haskell Wexler's Half Century with Cotton (viewing copy); South Carolina AFL-CIO records.

Newly available collections: Voices of Labor Oral History Project, Interview with Harry Bexley (IBEW); Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks System Board 96 records; Professional Air Traffic Controllers Organization records; and the Collections of Contracts and Agreements for over a dozen unions.

Additionally, the Southern Labor Archives is currently adding the legacy finding aids of its older collections to its website, making available information about dozens of labor collections that were not previously available online.

Please visit the Southern Labor Archives on the web (www.library.gsu.edu/spcoll/labor) or send queries to archives@gsu.edu.

**Join Us for the 2010 SLSA General Meeting
at the OAH Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.
Friday, April 8 at 2:00 p.m.**

Member News

Michael Honey, as LAWCHA President (2007-2010), helped to launch new efforts to educate the public about the need for labor law reform (EFCA), to expand LAWCHA membership and conferences, and to consolidate LAWCHA diversity, newsletter, and staffing. He strongly supported the SLSA being an integral part of LAWCHA. He is currently editing a book of Martin Luther King's labor speeches for Beacon Press, writing a book on the Sharecropper's Troubador, John Handcox, and writing and speaking on King's Unfinished Agenda for Economic Justice. His recent book, *Going Down Jericho Road: The Memphis Strike, Martin Luther King's Last Campaign*, won awards from the OAH, the SHA, and the Robert F. Kennedy Foundation. Honey is Fred and Dorothy Haley Professor of Humanities at the University of Washington, Tacoma.

The Labor and Civil Rights Working Group at UNC-Chapel Hill/Duke (LCRWG) invites anyone interested in labor and civil rights history or activism to attend the group's upcoming meetings: on February 26 LCRWG will host a film night, and on March 4 John Dittmer will discuss his most recent book, *The Good Doctors: The Medical Committee for Human Rights and the Struggle for Social Justice in Health Care*. Comprised of graduate students from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and Duke University LCRWG provides a space for scholars and activists to share works-in-progress and to discuss local and regional labor and civil rights issues. For more information about upcoming events or to join the listserv, email Jessica Wilkerson at jcwilker@email.unc.edu.

James J. Lorence's book, *The Unemployed People's Movement: Leftists, Liberals, and Labor In Georgia, 1939-1941*, was published by the University of Georgia Press in 2009. In early 2010 the University of Illinois Press will reissue his *A Hard Journey: The Life of Don West* in paperback. Lorence is currently researching a biography of Clinton E. Jencks of the International Union of Mine, Mill, and Smelter Workers (IUMMSW). Lorence is Professor Emeritus, History at the University of Wisconsin-Marathon County

David Lee McMullen's book, *Strike! The Radical Insurrections of Ellen Dawson* will be available from the University Press of Florida on August 15, 2010. This is the first biography to be written about the first woman elected to a national leadership position in an American textile union. Born in Scotland, Dawson went to work in the textile mills during World War I. In 1921 she came to the United States, where she was a leader in three major textile strikes – Passaic, New Bedford, and Gastonia. McMullen's book reconstructs her life; connects American radicals with the radicalism of Red Clydeside, the most turbulent period of Scottish labor unrest; and provides a new perspective on the labor activists associated with Albert Weisbord. McMullen is an independent scholar who taught at the University of South Florida in St. Petersburg and at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte.

Georgia State University Library's Southern Labor Archives (SLA) will celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2011. SLA, established in 1971, is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and making available the documentary heritage of southern workers and their unions, as well as that of workers and unions having an historic relationship to the region. Early planning of events and exhibits to celebrate the anniversary include the Southern Labor Studies Association annual conference (in conjunction with the SLSA Conference Planning Committee), a new exhibit featuring airline collections held at the SLA, and a batch of new interviews to be added to the Voices of Labor Oral History Project. Additional events and/or more information will be announced closer to 2011. Email all queries to archives@gsu.edu.

Robert Zieger reports that the **United Faculty of Florida** (UFF), which is affiliated with the AFT and NEA, has, after protracted negotiations, reached a new agreement with the University of Florida administration. UF faculty have enjoyed the benefits of collective bargaining since 1976 but were forced into de facto recertification in 2002-2003 owing to changes in the governing structure of the Florida higher education system. During the five plus years during which negotiations for a new contract were being conducted, many faculty believed that the UF administration was employing delaying tactics in hopes of undermining support for the union. The new contract, which must be ratified by members of the bargaining unit and approved by the UF Board of Trustees, contains important intellectual property rights protections and much improved sabbatical provisions. The University of Florida is one of the few flagship state universities whose faculty have union representation.

Southern Labor Studies Association Syllabus Exchange

The Southern Labor Studies Association is pleased to announce its newest project, the SLSA Syllabus Exchange. The association solicits submissions of completed course syllabi on themes related to labor and working-class history in the American South. We welcome both surveys of this topic as well as specialized classes on employment in a particular industry or place (such as mining in Appalachia, textile work in the Piedmont, etc.), different systems of work (slavery, indentured servitude, convict labor, waged labor, housework, etc.), or the relationship of labor and class to larger forces such as electoral politics, social movements, white supremacy, and patriarchy. We also encourage courses that explore oral history methodology, service learning, and other forms of field work in the southern context.

Please send your submissions in PDF format to Max Krochmal at mk63@duke.edu. The Exchange will be password protected, and only SLSA members will have access to the syllabi.

(National Urban League in South Carolina, Cont.)

nationally for African American workers, the issues of economic empowerment and economic equity is critical, especially since this figure does not include those no longer participating in the labor force or who are underemployed and not able to make a living wage. According to CNBC, the national foreclosure rate was at 14% in December of 2009, one in every 366 households. Those disproportionately affected by the economic downturn are the constituency that the NUL serves. In South Carolina, which has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country, in one month according to RealtyTrac, one out of every 753 families experienced a foreclosure.

In South Carolina, the NUL has recently put in place programs into address issues related to the economic downturn. For example, the NUL published its *2008 State of Black South Carolina* to address the economic disparities in the state and propose recommendations for increased job creation and higher retention rates. The NUL also created programs for seniors, teenagers, and young men to help foster economic empowerment within the community. Beginning in January 2010, the Columbia chapter will start a new program, the "Pursuit of Excellence Institute," for young black men between the ages of 25 and 32. The program, in partnership with Seagram's Gin, includes job training and mentoring as part of the agenda. Given the economic challenges facing young African Americans in South Carolina and nationwide, programs such as the Pursuit of Excellence Institute are vital to help black men fully participate in the workforce as the economy improves. It will be interesting to see how organizations such as the NUL respond in the coming year to the changing economy and the pressing needs of its constituencies.

In subsequent newsletters Silva will look at how NUL chapters in Massachusetts, Michigan, and California are responding to the economic crisis and compare to those in South Carolina.

(Report from the Labor Committee, Cont.)

alition has formed local affiliates in Charlotte, Fayetteville, and Greenville, held training sessions and conferences, and lobbied the state legislature – including a meeting with the Speaker of the State House. They also staged a mock funeral for the law last summer – led by Reverend William Barber, President of the state's NAACP – hoping the ban on collective bargaining would not live beyond its 50th anniversary (it was enacted in 1959). Unfortunately, like a vampire, the bargaining gag refuses to die and continues to haunt the state. But students and faculty at NC State, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Duke remain committed to the struggle, and have worked closely with the HOPE Coalition, especially in its education and lobbying campaigns to let the public and lawmakers know about the bill's history and its continuing restrictions on the rights of public workers.

Note from the Treasurer

The letter sounded ominous. If they did not receive documentation from me within ten days, Wachovia warned, the SLSA would be in violation of the USA PATRIOT Act and our account closed. I was nervous. I had just taken over this job from Heather Thompson, and never having been trusted with other people's money, I didn't want to blow my first assignment: open a new bank account. Being fairly straight-laced by nature, I also panicked at the thought of not complying with federal law (especially one written in all caps). I could just see windbreaker-clad agents coming to my office to remove the single manila folder containing my SLSA records. A perfectly good computer might be hauled off for the one small spreadsheet documenting the two transactions made to date. I might actually get a permanent record that things could go on.

I was also a little amused. Wachovia had broken out its best legalese to warn a small academic organization – with a bank account hardly sufficient to buy one cross-country airline ticket (coach, of course) – that the public university address on the account information didn't match the public university address on file with the IRS. Procedure must be followed, of course. A few phone calls later, the problem was resolved. I advised the bank that I had submitted a change of address with the IRS. It agreed not to shut us down.

I regale you with this story for two reasons. One, I wanted some way to introduce myself and prove that my title does indeed carry some (very few) responsibilities. I was asked to be treasurer in August and took over the office shortly after. In my daytime job, I am an assistant professor in the history department at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. I am currently finishing a book, *Where Tobacco Was King: Land, Labor, and Life in the Old Bright Belt*, and beginning research on commercial fishing on Florida's Gulf Coast. I presented some of the earliest work on my book project (when it was still a dissertation) at a Southern Labor Studies Conference. I appreciated so

much the experience of attending and presenting at the conference that I jumped at the opportunity to help the SLSA when asked.

Which brings me to my second point: the SLSA does a wonderful job of promoting scholarship in our field, but it does it on a shoestring budget. Through sponsored panels at the meeting of the Southern Historical Association and, even more, in hosting our own conferences, we provide the space and opportunity for scholars at all stages of their careers to present their work and interact with one another. We have done much of this through the efforts of dedicated and spirited volunteers. But money is needed, too. Right now, the only source of income we have comes from LAWCHA members who choose to join the SLSA at the same time. For this reason, we need to encourage everyone with an interest to join both groups. We'll be examining additional ways of increasing our funding in the near future, including the possibility of accepting charitable donations. But to help us grow now, get a LAWCHA application in as many hands as you can, and make sure they're checking off that SLSA membership box.

Did I tell you about my wait times on the phone with the IRS?

Evan P. Bennett
SLSA Treasurer

Become a Member of SLSA

To join, go to:
www.dukeupress.edu/lawcha

Membership in SLSA is just \$10 above the price of membership in the Labor and Working Class History Association (LAWCHA).*

* If you are already a member of LAWCHA, email slsa@wm.edu.

Visit SLSA online at www.southernlaborstudies.org