

*In Fond Memory of Dr. William Serow.
Bill, we'll all miss you.*



Included here is an article published in The Tallahassee Democrat on Saturday November 8th 2003 about Bill Serow's death.

**FSU professor dies of a heart attack abroad
Bill Serow was in Germany as a guest lecturer**

**By Gabrielle Finley
DEMOCRAT WRITER**

To family and friends, he was known as the man who loved to hate the New York Yankees, and to his colleagues, he's held as a man of distinction. But to all he came in contact with, he was known as a genuinely good man.

William J. "Bill" Serow, 57, a Florida State University economics professor and former director of the FSU Center for the Study of Population, died Wednesday of a heart attack in Halle, Germany. He was serving as a guest lecturer at Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg. He left for Halle on Oct. 27.

During his 22 years at Florida State, Serow served as director of FSU's Center for the Study of Population for more than a decade until his retirement from that position in June.

A scholarship has been established in his name through the FSU Foundation.

His colleagues say Serow had an excellent work ethic and was dedicated to his career.

"We go back to 1981, and he never slowed down," said David Rasmussen, dean of FSU's College of Social Sciences. "He was a valuable colleague, and it's a big loss."

Serow, an author and scholar, published several papers and books on demography and has consulted with foreign governments, including Indonesia and the Netherlands, on economic demography.

A quirky sense of humor

A native of Brooklyn, N.Y., Serow earned his bachelor's degree in economics from Boston College in 1967 and his master's degree and Ph.D., both in economics, from Duke University in 1970 and 1972, respectively.

But it wasn't his career accomplishments, his published papers or books that his daughter, Erika Serow remembers. It was his bizarre, quirky sense of humor.

"He was the largest-hearted man, but he always pretended he was a grouch," she said laughingly. "He loved 'How the Grinch Stole Christmas,' and he hated the movie 'The Sound of Music.'"

Elizabeth Serow, his wife of 35 years, remembers her husband as an avid world traveler who loved all things associated with the popular fictional detective Sherlock Holmes.

"We were always planning another trip," she said. "We traveled everywhere, but we kept going back to Italy; our souls just felt at home there."

Michelle Ubben, Serow's first cousin, said he was simply an amazing person.

Woody Carlson, Director of the Center for the Study of Demography and Population Health at Florida State University released this touching statement concerning Bill Serow's death:

Sent Thursday, November 6, 2003.

Dear Colleagues:

As the director of our Center for Demography and Population Health, I have the unpleasant responsibility to be the official bearer of extremely bad news.

During his current visiting professorship in Germany, Professor William Serow of FSU's Economics department died from a massive heart attack last night. As many of you know, Bill was suffering from serious heart problems and had scheduled a major heart operation for next semester. He didn't make it to that appointment. Personally, I am stunned and devastated at this untimely loss. Bill was one of the key people who recruited me to FSU less than two years ago, and he only stepped down as director of the Center this past summer. Our hearts as well as our academic program are wounded by this loss.

With Professor Charlie Nam, I had already been exploring the possibility of creating a Serow Prize to be awarded to a graduate student in demography, to serve as a supplement to the regular assistantship so that we can continue to attract top students to our program. This prize would be an appropriate memorial for a scholar who dedicated so much of his career to the development of our applied Masters program in demography, though we had hoped he would see the prize and meet the prize-winners. It is sad to think that he will never know of this honor in his name. But please be thinking of this practical way to memorialize one of the key figures in our discipline and one of the leaders of our program at FSU for the last three decades.

Goodbye, Bill. I can't believe you're gone. After the initial disbelief and pain, I have resolved to be glad that you went out doing what you loved best--travelling about the world, talking about demography with colleagues and friends. This is a love I shared with you. But you had a lot left to do! We'll not forget your work or your ideals for our program.

Yours truly,
Woody Carlson

Editor's Note: Bill's daughter Erika sent information on remembering Bill to many of his friends. In lieu of flowers, they are asking that people contribute the William Serow Scholarship Fund at the FSU Foundation. Mail checks to the foundation at 225 University Center, Building C Suite 3100, Tallahassee FL 32306. You can also do this online - be sure to designate the fund https://www.fsufoundation.org/giving_form.cfm, or via phone 850 644 6000.

The Thursday and Friday night receptions in Washington D.C. were enjoyed by many. The view of our nation's capital, and particularly the Pentagon, were stunning. Here are a few pictures to remember the occasion – or to see what you missed if you weren't there!



Clockwise from top left: Dudley Poston and Rick Rogers talk turkey, Omer Galle, Bob Boyd and incoming President Karen Woodrow Lafield enjoy a couple of cold ones, Kathryn Norcross Bryan introduces SDA's youngest demographer, and Woody Carlson and Carl Schmertmann glam for the cam. ☺

We have winners!!!!!!!!!!



Dr. Stanley Smith (University of Florida) and Dr. Jeff Tayman (San Diego Association of Governments) won the Walt Terrie Award for the Best "Applied Demography" Paper for their paper "An Evaluation of Population Projections by Age." The cash prize was \$150. This is the second time that Dr. Smith has won this award. Though a number of studies have evaluated the forecast accuracy of projections of total population size, few have considered the accuracy of projections by age group. For many purposes, however, the relevant variable is the population of a particular age group rather than the population as a whole. They investigated the precision and bias of a variety of age-group projections at the national and state levels in the U.S. and for counties in Florida. They also compare the accuracy of state and county projections derived from a full-blown application of the cohort-component method with the accuracy of projections derived from a simpler, less data-intensive version of the method. Age-group error patterns are different for national projections than for sub-national projections; errors are substantially larger for some age groups than for others; differences in errors among age groups decline as the projection horizon becomes longer; and differences in methodological complexity have no consistent impact on the precision and bias of age-group projections. This paper is in this month's Demography.



The award for best undergraduate research paper was given to Bridget Lavelle, Grinnell College, for her paper, "Cohabitation, Parental Transitions and Children's Sexual Initiation." Ms. Lavelle, pictured above, participated in the University of Texas Research Experiences for Undergraduates program under direction of Professor Omer Galle.

Two awards for outstanding graduate research paper award were given this year. The first award for excellent paper by graduate students was to Vanessa Estrada and David A. Cort, University of California, Los Angeles, for their co-authored paper, "Race, Place and Homeownership: A Multi-Level Analysis of Racial Disparities in Los Angeles Mortgage Lending Markets."

The second graduate award was for an excellent paper authored by graduate student Michele Steinmetz, Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute, for her paper "Cultural Differences in Fertility in Kenya."

Headin' to Hilton Head!

The 2004 Annual Meeting of the Southern Demographic Association will be held at the **Hilton Head Marriott Beach and Golf Resort** on October 14 through October 17. The hotel is located on the Atlantic Ocean about in the middle of Hilton Head Island's 12 miles of beautiful beaches, a ten minute drive from the Hilton Head Airport and 45 minutes from the Savannah Airport. It has recently finished a \$23 million renovation providing us with excellent facilities for our meeting, although the beach and other activities may attract conference participants away from sessions. The Hilton Head Marriott Beach and Golf Resort offers 3 championship golf courses, 25 tennis courts, Shelter Cove Marina, fishing, sailing, beachside fun, family activities and more. The resort includes an outdoor Olympic pool with diving area, children's pool, indoor heated pool, whirlpools and sauna.



Hilton Head Island is one of the most popular resort destinations in the United States.



Settlement began in the 17th century, but the Island was not connected to the mainland until 1956, at which point commercial development began. Hilton Head has tried to preserve the Island's natural beauty while offering excellent facilities and recreational activities in plantation-like developments. Make your plans now to attend the 2004 Annual Meeting. For more information on Hilton Head see www.hiltonheadisland.net or contact the Local Arrangements co-chairs Barb Johnson (barbj@usca.edu) or Bob Freymeyer (rhfrey@presby.edu).

Interesting Plenary Luncheon Speakers – Watch for us in the News



Haya El Nasser has covered Census, demographics and urban/suburban development for USA TODAY since 1996. Prior to that, she was a reporter in the newspaper's Los Angeles bureau, where she covered memorable stories, including the Rodney King case, the L.A. riots, the Northridge earthquake and the O.J. Simpson case. She has been with the newspaper since 1983, reporting on the media industry for the Money section throughout much of the 80s. Haya spoke with a "sold-out" luncheon crowd on what makes demography stories newsworthy and how to get your research noticed by news agencies.

Outgoing President's Message by Peter A. Morrison

My personal vision of SDA—a national association that proudly retains a touch of Southern hospitality—is increasingly evident. Our Association continues to evolve and broaden its reach. Our annual meetings draw ever more participation from academic centers across the nation, in such “southern” realms as southern New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and California. Younger researchers and students continually rejuvenate our membership and, keeping with our strong tradition, participate actively as presenters. Under Woody Carlson’s editorship, Population Research & Policy Review has thrived and is setting a new standard for timely and efficient all-electronic peer review via e-mail.

Financially, we face the continuing challenge of building our membership numbers and recruiting participation. You must do your part, by sharing with colleagues and students your own enthusiasm for SDA meetings and the networking opportunities they offer.

Building on our collective strengths is a collective effort. To many of you who will be attending the PAA meetings the spring, I urge a special effort to talk up SDA with your colleagues. Invite their interest in our Association. Alert them to the Call for Papers. Spread the word among graduate students and encourage them to submit abstracts for that all-important “first professional paper” experience.

Our SDA Homepage will carry details on next year’s meeting at Hilton Head, SC. It’s as close as Google.com [“Southern Demographic”].

Lastly, I want to offer my special thanks to June Nogle, our outgoing Secretary-Treasurer, for her superb management of SDA’s affairs over many years.

What’s coming up in PR²?

We have a special issue on very low fertility coming to your mailbox soon. In addition, three manuscripts will be published in the next issue:

Madeline Zavodny. Race, wages and assimilation among Cuban immigrants.
Lincoln Quillan. How long are exposures to poor neighborhoods?

Stephen Obeng Gyimah. A cohort analysis of the timing of first birth and fertility in Ghana.

Kathryn Yount. Gender bias in the allocation of curative health care in Minia, Egypt.



Welcome to the Board of Directors

Barb Johnson of the University of South Carolina at Aiken has joined the Board of Directors and has also agreed to assume the duties of Vice President. The current Vice President, Bob Hummer, was voted to be the President Elect in 2003.

We will need nominations for two board position in the spring. Please begin thinking about people who might be interested in serving the association.

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SPECIAL OFFER: Members of the Southern Demographic Association of America can subscribe to Population Studies, Volume 58, 2004, 3 issues (Print ISSN 0032-4728, Online ISSN 1477-4747) at a much reduced rate of US\$80 (standard personal rate: US\$153) by emailing kath.sayer@tandf.co.uk before 30 April 2004.



TO: Members of the Southern Demographic Association

Bob Hummer and I are helping to organize demography sessions for the 2004 Southern Sociological Society meetings to be held in Atlanta April 14-17, and we would especially like to invite SDA members to submit papers.

The call for papers, detailed instructions and online submission forms are available through the SSS website.

<http://www.msstate.edu/org/sss/04Meet/Publish/>.

The final deadline for submitting abstracts is January 5, 2004. Please note that the conference application software is maximized only for Internet Explorer.

Thanks, and happy holidays.

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The Southern Demographic Association is a scientific and educational corporation operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is comprised of persons with professional interests in demography and population studies. *Southern Demographic News* is compiled and edited by Lynne and Ron Cossman.

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