



Klineberg Talk Set for April 24

Steve Klineberg, Rice University professor of sociology, will present results from the 21st annual Houston Area Survey to TEDA/Houston at a special meeting Wednesday, April 24.

What Klineberg calls his “annual report to my colleagues” has long since become a favorite TEDA tradition. Over nearly two decades, TEDA members have been fascinated to see trends—and sometimes sharp discontinuities—emerge in the attitudes of Houstonians. Recent years have brought expanded sampling to allow analysis of racial and ethnic divergences.

Klineberg initiated the Houston Area Survey in 1982—coincidentally, exactly at the height of the oil boom that began in 1974. The month after the 1982 survey marked the beginning of Houston’s slide into one of the steepest regional recessions in the U.S. since the Great Depression of the ’30s. The survey thus provides a wealth of longitudinal data that reflect Houstonians’ reactions to the full business cycle of recession, recovery, and expansion.

Among the myriad intriguing findings to emerge from the Houston Area Survey is the fact that respondents’ perceptions of the state of the economy, and in particular of job prospects, correlate highly with statistical measures that do not become available until well after the survey is conducted—a singular indication not only that public opinion is rooted in reality, but also that economic conditions help to mold public opinion.

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Klineberg, who holds a master’s in psychopathology from the University of Paris and a Ph.D. in social psychology from Harvard, joined the Rice faculty in 1972, and has received eight major teaching awards at Rice. Building on 21 years of the Houston Area Survey, he is writing *Making Sense of Our Times: A Study of Changing Attitudes in the Houston Area*, a volume he hopes to publish in 2003.

This TEDA/Houston meeting will be held at Neighborhood Centers (4500 Bissonnet at Newcastle Dr.), with reception beginning at 5:15 p.m. and Klineberg’s presentation starting at approximately 5:45 and running until 7. Parking is free.

As required by TEDA/Houston’s bylaws, the annual business meeting of the organization will precede the presentation. This meeting, which should occupy no more than five minutes, will include reports from the Audit and Nominating Committees, the latter proposing four nominees for three-year directorships expiring in June 2005 (see story on page 3). Additional nominations may be made from the floor. ✍

Census Bureau Marks 100 Years

Congress established a permanent “Census Office” in the Department of the Interior on March 6, 1902, to conduct a continuing program of censuses and other data collection activities. The nation’s population then stood at 80 million. Within a few months, the Census Office acquired the 900 workers who already had been processing the 1900 census.

The following year, the Census Office—by then, the Census *Bureau*—was moved to the new Department of Commerce and Labor. It remained with Commerce when Commerce was separated from Labor in 1913.

In 1905, the census of manufactures became the first census conducted separately from the decennial census of population. The retail and wholesale trade and construction censuses were added in 1930; the service trades census, in 1933. The various economic censuses were integrated in 1954 to provide comparable economic data across industries, and industry coverage was expanded between 1967 and 1992.

The Works Projects Administration conducted a Sample Survey of Unemployment in 1940—the first attempt to measure unemployment on an ongoing basis. When the WPA was abolished in 1942, the Census Bureau assumed responsibility for the 20,000-household survey, which it retitled as the “Monthly Report on the Labor Force.” The focus shifted from unemployment in the final years of the Great Depression to employment in the years following World War II, and the project was renamed the Current Population Survey in 1947. Today, the CPS is probably the best known and most widely used continuing federal household survey.

A pioneer in data processing, the Census Bureau in 1951 made the leap from punch card machines to the vacuum tubes, blinking lights, and whirring sounds of UNIVAC I, the first electronic computer used by a civilian government agency. UNIVAC I helped process the 1950 census data.

In the early ’50s, the Census Bureau and the National Bureau of Standards jointly developed film optical-sensing machines to read

the darkened circles on census questionnaires from microfilm. These were the predecessors of the sophisticated decentralized optical data-capture system used in Census 2000.

During its first 40 years, the Census Bureau officed in the District of Columbia in a variety of buildings. In 1942, most of its operations were moved to the Maryland suburb of Suitland, where it remains today. The General Services Administration recently announced that it will build two new Census Bureau headquarters buildings, scheduled for occupancy in 2006 and 2007, near the current complex. *≈*

New Census Director Confirmed

In mid-March, the U.S. Senate confirmed Charles Louis Kincannon as director of the Census Bureau. Kincannon served as deputy director from 1982 to 1992.

Said Commerce Secretary Donald Evans: “He is one of the country’s most respected statisticians, bringing a background of almost 40 years of experience in a wide range of demographic and economic research to the nation’s flagship statistical agency. Having spent years working at the Census Bureau in an executive capacity, he already is intimately familiar with the organization’s work and mission.”

Kincannon is a graduate of UT-Austin and did postgraduate study in statistics and economics at George Washington University, Georgetown University, and the University of Maryland. He began his career as a statistician with the Census Bureau in 1963, moved to the Office of Management and Budget in 1975, and returned to the Census Bureau in 1981, serving as deputy director from 1982 to 1992. He was awarded the Commerce Department’s highest civil service honor, the Gold Medal.

In 1992, Kincannon was appointed to the new position of chief statistician for the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development in Paris, where he worked to invigorate and reform the OECD’s statistical work to better respond to post-Cold War needs in Europe and rapid economic integration. He retired from OECD in 2000. *≈*

Board Nominees Named

At TEDA's April 24 business meeting, the Nominating Committee will place in nomination for election to three-year directorships the following four TEDA/Houston members, all of whom have agreed to serve if elected:

- ☞☞ **Myra Moren**, L.J. Melody & Co. Moren is a former vice-president of TEDA/Houston.
- ☞☞ **Paula Pipes**, Research Associate, University of Houston.
- ☞☞ **Nancy Powell**, Harris County Office of Economic Development.
- ☞☞ **Vincent Sanders**, METRO. Sanders is TEDA/Houston's vice-president.

This year's nominating committee consists of **Robert S. Hinds**, chair, Consultant-SCORE, Small Business Administration; **Edith Chambers**, Greater Houston Partnership; **Sally Dwyer**, Dwyer Williams; and **Sara Jane White**, Planning Consultant. ☞

Data Alerts

- ☞☞ The Census Bureau's first post-censal estimates of county populations, including components of change, are slated for release on or about April 19.
- ☞☞ On March 20, the Census Bureau released Summary File 2 for Texas. SF2 presents basic demographic data for as many as 132 racial groups, 78 American Indian and Alaska Native tribal categories, and 39 Hispanic or Latino groups. Population subjects include age, sex, household relationship, and household type; data for occupied housing units include tenure, household size, and age of householder. Geographic units for which data are presented include metropolitan areas, counties, places, and census tracts. ASCII files can be downloaded from the Census Bureau's FTP server <http://www2.census.gov/census_2000>.
- ☞☞ The National Archives has opened individual 1930 census records to the public. (The City of Houston at that time had a population of 292,352; the eight-county CMSA had 526,681.) Under federal law,

individual census records cannot be released until 72 years after the census. A few notable points about the 1930 census:

- ☞☞ It was the last census in which all households received the same questionnaire. (The "long form" was introduced in 1940.)
- ☞☞ It was also the last to ask people if they could read or write.
- ☞☞ A new questionnaire item was "Does this household have a radio?" The replies showed that 12 million people—not quite 10 percent of the population—had access to radios in their homes.
- ☞☞ Veterans could indicate service in World War I, the Mexican Expedition, the Philippine Insurrection, the Boxer Rebellion, the Spanish-American War, and the Civil War.
- ☞☞ Life expectancy was 60 years, versus today's 77.

Houston Facts 2002 Available

The 2002 edition of *Houston Facts*, the Greater Houston Partnership's more-or-less annual "mini-almanac" for the Houston region, was published in late March. Expanded to 24 pages from the previous 20, it includes new sections on air quality, CBD revitalization, and the Houston Zoo, plus substantially expanded coverage of museums, parks, and the cultural arts. A new section called "Houston in Perspective" offers a potpourri of comparisons such as these:

- ☞☞ In August 2001, the Houston CMSA had more jobs (2,306,300) than Colorado (2,262,900) or Arizona (2,234,100).
- ☞☞ In 2000, the Houston Airport System handled 44,430,766 passengers—more than the combined populations of California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Hawaii. That's an average of 1.4 passengers per second around the clock.

You can view *Houston Facts 2002* in a print-protected format at the Partnership's web site, www.houston.org. Click "Houston Life" and then "Houston Facts." Click "Products and Resources" for purchase information. ☞

TEDA/Houston '01-'02 Calendar

This calendar of TEDA/Houston functions is presented as a continuing feature of the *TEDA/Houston Newsletter*. Unless otherwise noted, all events are at the Houston Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 1701 San Jacinto.

Meetings (reception 5:30 p.m., presentation 5:30-6:30) are free to TEDA members of any chapter and \$10 per person for guests (applicable toward dues if a guest joins TEDA/Houston the same day). Fees and times for other functions vary.

April 24—Meeting

The Houston Area Survey—What We've Learned in 20 Years

Stephen L. Klineberg, Ph.D.

Professor of Sociology

Rice University

**5:15-7 p.m., Neighborhood Centers,
4500 Bissonnet**

May 22—Workshop

A Year After Allison—Flooding and Flood Control in the Houston Region

Michael D. Talbott, P.E.

Director

Harris County Flood Control District

**8:30 a.m.-Noon, United Way of the
Texas Gulf Coast**

June 26—Meeting

Selling Houston for the 2012 Olympics

Speakers to be announced

September 25—Workshop

What Census 2000 Tells Us About Houston

Karl Eschbach, Ph.D.

Assistant Professor of Sociology

University of Houston

**8:30 a.m.-Noon, United Way of the
Texas Gulf Coast**

Do We Know Your E-Mail Address?

TEDA anticipates increased e-mail communication with its members. Please send your current e-mail address to teda@houston.org, and let us know if you're unable to receive e-mail attachments. The increase in first-class postage costs on June 30 makes e-mail more attractive than ever. *z*

'01-'02 TEDA/Houston Board of Directors

Terms Expiring in 2002

z z Skip Kasdorf, Greater Houston Partnership, **President**, 713-844-3615, kasdorf@houston.org

z z Hans C. Olavson, Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc., 281-589-5859, olavson@pbworld.com

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Terms Expiring in 2003

z z Karl Eschbach, Ph.D., Dept. of Sociology, University of Houston, **Webmaster**, 713-743-3950, eschbach@uh.edu

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z z John Stansfield, 281-933-2588, jstansfield@pdq.net

z z Christina Todd, North Harris Montgomery Community College District, **Treasurer and Membership Chair**, 281-260-3128, christina.c.todd@nhmccd.edu

Terms Expiring in 2004

z z Virginia Appl, Houston Independent School District, **Secretary**, 713-892-6619, vappl@houstonisd.org

z z Max L. Beauregard, 713-864-0549, max-beau@msn.com

z z Greg Grabiec, United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast, 713-685-2331, ggrabiec@uwtgc.org

z z Sharon Ju, Ph.D., Houston-Galveston Area Council, 713-993-2419, sju@hgac.cog.tx.us

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