History of the Formation of the Section, 1994-6
by David Heise, Indiana University, Chair of the section 2003-4. This appeared in *The Mathematical Sociologist*, Newsletter of the Mathematical Sociology Section of the American Sociological Association , Fall 2003

The first formal activity leading to the Mathematical Sociology Section occurred at a Professional Workshop instigated and chaired by John Angle at the 1994 American Sociological Association annual meeting in Los Angeles. After this workshop revealed genuine interest in creating a section, Eugene Johnsen, with the assistance of a Steering Committee, produced a Mission Statement for a Mathematical Sociology Section and, later, the By-Laws. The Steering Committee consisted of most of those involved in the 1994 Workshop: John Angle, Stephen Berkowitz, Phillip Bonacich, Scott Feld, Sharlene Hesse-Biber, James Hollander, Guillermina Jasso, Eugene Johnsen, Joel Levine, Timothy Liao, David McFarland, Alton Okinaka, John Skvoretz, and Geoffrey Tootell.

A determined effort was made in the early years to bring the group's interests to the attention of sociologists in general and to display vital activities to the ASA. Eugene Johnsen organized and chaired a Professional Workshop on "The Practice of Mathematical Sociology" at the 1995 ASA Meeting in Washington D.C., with five invited speakers presenting papers. For the 1996 ASA Annual Meeting in New York the section-in-formation proposed and received ASA approval for a Didactic Seminar by Stanley Wasserman on social network analysis. At the 1997 ASA Meeting in Toronto, Phillip Bonacich presented a Didactic Seminar, sponsored by the recently formed Mathematical Sociology Section.