



A Student and Early Career Guide to the AAPOR Annual Conference 2015

Brought to you by the AAPOR Student and Early Career Engagement Subcommittee, this guide is intended to provide helpful information about AAPOR and the upcoming annual conference for all students and early career individuals, but particularly for those who are new to AAPOR or are attending the conference for the first time. This guide is divided into six sections:

- [I. AAPOR Student and Early Career Engagement Subcommittee: Who We Are](#)
- [II. Activities That Will Benefit Students and Early Career Professionals](#)
- [III. Practical Information about the AAPOR Annual Conference](#)
- [IV. Conference Tips and Highlights](#)
- [V. Searching for a Job or Internship at AAPOR](#)
- [VI. Things To Do in Florida](#)
- [VII. Getting The Most Out Of Your AAPOR Membership](#)

I. AAPOR Student and Early Career Engagement Subcommittee: Who We Are

The AAPOR Student and Early Career Engagement Subcommittee is a group of volunteer AAPOR members who serve on the larger Membership and Chapter Relations Committee (MCR). MCR is responsible for recruiting and retaining AAPOR members, analyzing and reporting on membership trends, and serving as the liaison between the national AAPOR organization and the regional chapters (we have more about regional chapters later in this guide).

This Subcommittee was set up to assist students and those who are early in their career in getting the most out of their AAPOR membership and to increase retention of these members. We have planned several activities leading up to and during this year's conference to give you the chance to meet and interact with one another, and learn more about the benefits of AAPOR membership and how to get the most out of the conference experience.

Subcommittee Members

Below are pictures and quick bios of our subcommittee's members. Most of us will be at the conference, so feel free to look for us, ask questions, or just say hi! Our email addresses are also included below in case you want to reach out with questions before the conference. Also, much of the information about what to do in Florida was contributed to AAPORNet by AAPOR member, Colleen Porter. Even though Colleen isn't an official member of the Student and Early Career Engagement Subcommittee, we thought her information was too valuable to not have in one place for the upcoming conference.



Ana Lucia Cordova-Cazar (al.cordovacazar@huskers.unl.edu) is a PhD student in the Survey Research and Methodology Program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL). She obtained an MA in Political Economy from the Department of Government at the University of Essex (United Kingdom) and an MS in Survey Research and Methodology from UNL. Ana Lucía's academic interest is public opinion research as a means of giving a voice to the citizenry and strengthening democratic processes, as well as the analysis of data to enhance evidence-based policy making.



Jenny Hunter Childs (jennifer.hunter.childs@census.gov) is Research Psychologist at the Center for Survey Measurement of the U.S. Census Bureau. She currently serves on AAPOR's Executive Council as the Chair of Membership and Chapter Relations Committee. Jenny has been active in AAPOR and DC-AAPOR since 2002.



Mingnan Liu (mingnanl@surveymonkey.com) is a Survey Scientist at SurveyMonkey. He received his PhD in Survey Methodology from the University of Michigan. At SurveyMonkey, he focuses on examining and ensuring the data quality from SurveyMonkey Audience, a nonprobability online Web panel.



Kristen Olson (kolson5@unl.edu) is an associate professor of Sociology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She currently serves on AAPOR's Executive Council as the Associate Chair of the Membership and Chapter Relations Committee. Kristen has been active in AAPOR since 2001 and in MAPOR since 2003. Kristen was recently MAPOR President, and now serves as MAPOR Past-President.



Casey Langer Tesfaye (ctesfaye08@gmail.com) received her MA in Language and Communication from Georgetown University in the spring of 2013. She has been a member of AAPOR for over a decade, and she is currently the secretary or membership chair of DC-AAPOR. She is a manager at Nielsen in the Behavioral Methods group. She blogs at <http://www.freerangeresearch.com>.



Clarissa Steele (crsteele@wisc.edu) is a Survey Researcher at the Wisconsin Center for Education Research at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She helps design, implement, and analyze surveys of K-12 teachers, students, and parents, and collects data for program evaluations in elementary and secondary classrooms. Clarissa graduated with an MS in Survey Research and Methodology from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in May 2010. She has been a member of AAPOR and the Midwest Chapter (MAPOR) since 2008, where she serves as a Member-at-Large on the Executive Council.



David L. Vannette (vannette@stanford.edu) is a PhD Candidate in the Stanford University Department of Communication. His general research interests are in the areas of public opinion and survey methodology. He also serves on the Pacific Chapter ([PAPOR](#)) Executive Council as a Member-at-Large.



Sara K. Yeo (sara.yeo@utah.edu) is an Assistant Professor in the [Department of Communication](#) at the University of Utah. Her research focuses on the intersection of science, media, and public opinion. She holds a M.S. in Oceanography from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, as well as a M.S. in Life Sciences Communication and a Ph.D. in Mass Communications from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

II. Activities That Will Benefit Students and Early Career Members

There are several programs and events leading up to and during the conference that we want to make you aware of. Some of these are geared specifically to students and early career members; others are aimed at new AAPOR members and first-time conference attendees more generally.

Before the conference:

- **First-time Conference Attendee Videos:** The MCR and Conference Committees will host a series of videos for new members and first-time conference attendees to give you more information about the benefits of AAPOR membership and what to expect at the conference. If you're a new member or this is your first AAPOR conference, look for an email with details about these videos in coming weeks.
- **Docent Program:** The Conference committee also runs the Conference Docent program, which connects interested new members with longer-term AAPOR members who can help answer questions and provide a friendly face at the conference. If this is your first AAPOR conference, someone from the Conference Committee will contact you in the weeks before the conference with more details about the program and to connect you with your docent.
- **The Roommate Matching Program:** The Subcommittee coordinates a Roommate Matching Program for all AAPOR members while conference registration is open. The program helps conference attendees save money on their hotel costs by matching 2-4 people to share a room during the conference. Check your email for information on how to sign up for the Roommate Matching Program.

At the conference, for all new members:

- **AAPOR Passport Program**
All first-time conference attendees will receive a "Passport to AAPOR." The objective of the passport program is to introduce new members to different aspects of AAPOR and get you to meet more folks at the conference. You can get your passport "stamped" at multiple locations at the conference, and those who turn in a completed passport will be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 Amazon gift card.
- **New Member/All-Chapter Reception:** Thursday, May 14, 5:45 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
This reception, held on Thursday evening of the conference, provides new members a chance to mingle with long-time AAPORites and gives all members the chance to meet and greet with representatives of AAPOR's regional chapters, as well as learn about exciting chapter initiatives and events (plus more chances to win great regional prizes). Tables will also be set up for new members to meet their docents early in the evening (a great chance to get your passport stamped), and groups can continue networking and learning about AAPOR at the "A Meeting Place" event Thursday night.
- **"A Meeting Place" Kickoff Event:** Thursday, May 14, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
New this year and keeping with AAPOR's "A Meeting Place" theme, our kickoff event will provide the opportunity to meet and mingle with friends, old and new. Multiple dining stations and tables will be available to allow you to continue conversations started at the New Member & All Chapter Reception without interruption and freely converse throughout the evening.
- **AAPOR Booth**
MCR committee members will be on hand at the AAPOR Booth (located near the Conference Registration) to welcome members, provide information about AAPOR

membership, and generally offer a friendly face. We encourage you to stop by the booth as soon as you've finished at the registration desk to connect with us!

- **Speed Mentoring:** Friday, May 15 3:15 pm - 4:15 pm and Saturday, May 16, 12:45 PM - 2:15 pm

Want to participate in Speed Networking, but just have general questions? Speed Mentoring is the answer! AAPOR Executive Council members and Membership and Chapter Relations Committee members will be part of the Speed Networking event with a "Speed Mentoring" table. Ask questions about anything - the structure of AAPOR, general career advice, how to network at the AAPOR conference, the most important books to read on a particular topic, how to get articles published, or anything else!

- **Post-Banquet Party – Casino Night: Raising Funds for Our Students:** Saturday, May 16, 10:00 p.m. – 1:00 a.m.

We are adding a small-scale fundraiser to our Saturday night post-banquet Casino Night. Everyone will start the evening with tokens to play blackjack, craps and roulette. If you run out of tokens, you will have the option of purchasing additional tokens (the "fundraiser"). Fundraiser proceeds will help reduce student expenses for the 2016 AAPOR conference. It's a fun and easy way to expand financial support for our students at next year's conference. Cash bar and great networking for all.

- **Casino Night is "Going Pro" with Lee Childs, World Series of Poker Main Event Finalist**

As part of this year's Casino Night we will be holding a Texas Hold'em Poker Charity Tournament where conference attendees can try their best to beat professional poker player Lee Childs. Lee is best known for finishing 7th place in the 2007 World Series of Poker Main Event, but throughout his poker career, he has well over \$1 Million in live poker earnings as well as over \$1 Million in online poker earnings. He has a World Series of Poker Circuit Ring and is known in the poker world as one of the "nicest guys" playing poker today. Furthermore, he's married to AAPOR's Membership and Chapter Relations Chair, Jenny Hunter Childs! You can sign up for the charity poker tournament on the conference registration form for \$30. The winner of the tournament will take home a trophy and a year's worth of bragging rights. All proceeds will go towards reducing student expenses for the 2016 AAPOR Conference.

- **"How To" Texas Hold'em — Beginner's Demonstration and Advanced Strategies Class**

If you would love to play poker with a pro, but don't know a thing about the game, Lee will be holding a FREE "how to play" Texas Hold'em demonstration for beginners on Saturday afternoon, from 1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. in the Exhibit Hall. For those advanced players who want to improve their game, Lee is offering a special Texas Hold'em Advanced Strategies Poker Class on Friday from 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. A \$50 fee will be charged for the Advanced Strategies class, with the proceeds going towards reducing student expenses for the 2016 AAPOR conference. This fee also covers admission into the Saturday Night Texas Hold'em Charity Poker Tournament. You can register for the advanced strategies class on the conference registration form.

At the conference, for early career and students specifically:

- **Welcome Lunch:** Thursday, May 14, noon
Arrive early? Meet and mingle with other folks who are new to AAPOR. Meet in the

hotel lobby at noon to head out for an informal lunch off-site. Email Clarissa Steele (crsteele@wisc.edu) for more information.

- **Student and Early Career Meet-Up:** Friday, May 15, 6:00 p.m. – ?
Calling all Newbies! Join us for a meet-up hosted by the AAPOR Membership & Chapter Relations Committee. Meet and mingle with other students and early career folks, learn about AAPOR's resources and share your thoughts about how AAPOR can best serve our student and early career members. Meet in the hotel lobby at 6:00 p.m. to head out for an informal dinner off-site. Email Clarissa Steele (crsteele@wisc.edu) for more information.

More Fun Stuff at Conference:

- ***Fun Run/Walk***

If you like competition, or just want a good workout while at the conference, the Fun Run/Walk is for you. This annual event happens early on Saturday morning (May 16), usually around 7:00 a.m. (look for the exact time in the final conference program). All AAPOR conference attendees are welcome to participate, and prizes are awarded to the fastest runners and walkers.

- ***Annual AAPOR Golf Outing***

If you love to golf, make plans this year to arrive early enough to play a round during the Annual AAPOR Golf Outing before the annual conference begins. The annual outing will be held on Thursday, May 14, at the Dad Miller Golf Course, with tee times starting at 7:00AM. As Tiger Woods' home course during high school, Dad Miller is a favorite among those who like to walk. The greens fee is \$49 and includes a box lunch.

III. Practical Information about the AAPOR Annual Conference

Travel and Hotel

This year's conference takes place at the Diplomat Resort & Spa in Hollywood, Florida. The [AAPOR conference web site](#) has the latest information about the conference, including information about room availability, alternate hotels in the area, and travel options.

A consistently great part of the AAPOR annual conference is the location. This year's hotel is no different. The Diplomat Hollywood hotel web site lists some exciting amenities nearby. You can read more on these and other activities and amenities at the [Diplomat website](#).

Your registration packet will have maps of the hotel conference rooms that AAPOR will be using during the conference. AAPOR also has signs, either electronic or posters on easels, for every room, as well as conference volunteers who can help direct you where you are going. The hotel provides an overview of their meeting spaces on their [website](#), which you can use when the final conference schedule is published online to help you find the sessions you are interested in.

AAPOR member and Florida resident Colleen Porter shared this advice on AAPORNet: "The travel info link from the conference page stresses flying into and out of the Fort Lauderdale airport (FLL). This is a great choice, and much closer to the conference hotel if you can find a connection. Southwest has a strong presence there, and Allegiant Air for those from the Northeast. But some folks might have to settle for flying into Miami (MIA), from which there is

shuttle service available to the hotel for about \$30 one-way, less if you are traveling with more than one person.

Of course, air is not the only way to travel. For those coming from NYC or DC, there is an Amtrak station right in Hollywood, only 5.6 miles from the hotel, and the Silver Service offers two trains a day out of Penn Station. If you need 27 to 30 hours in order to work on your conference presentation, Amtrak might be a viable choice. When AAPOR last met in Orlando, some who brought family also brought a vehicle on the Auto Train. Unfortunately, the Orlando-area station is the southernmost stop for bringing a car.”

How to Dress

The conference program states that dress at the conference is “business casual,” though actual attire worn by attendees often ranges from casual (shorts and polos) to formal (suits and ties - particularly among those who are presenting). People tend to “dress up” more for the President’s Reception and the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening (ties and cocktail dresses). Also note that while average high temperatures in Hollywood in May are usually in the low- to mid-80s, the weather can vary significantly. Hotel meeting rooms can be quite cool, so you may want to bring a sweater or jacket regardless of what the weather is in Florida that weekend.

Food at the Conference

Another great part of AAPOR is the food. On Friday and Saturday mornings, the conference provides a continental breakfast of pastries, coffee, tea, and juice available in the Exhibit Hall, where we also have refreshment breaks during the morning and afternoon. This is a great time to casually network with other AAPOR attendees and visit booths and exhibits in the hall before sessions begin for the day.

Several meals are also included with your conference fee, including lunch on Friday and Saturday. Dinner is provided on Thursday and on Saturday night during the Awards Banquet. There is no assigned seating during lunch and dinner, so many AAPOR members take this opportunity to sit with colleagues they do not often see or to meet new colleagues from different organizations.

Friday night traditionally is open for AAPOR conference attendees to dine out. The MCR committee is organizing an informal meet-up for dinner away from the hotel on Friday night to give you a chance to meet other conference attendees and network apart from the conference.

The hotel also has many restaurants on site, including the Diplomat Prime, Fresh, and Rivals Waterfront Sports Bar.

Some AAPORites who live near Hollywood, Florida, have also provided some restaurant recommendations around the area (thanks again to Colleen Porter!). One suggestion is Padrinos Hallandale. The restaurant has a weekday lunch buffet for about \$10, which would be a great way to try a lot of Cuban specialties if you are looking for a lunch on Thursday. See their menu online at <http://www.padrinos.com/locations/hallandale>.

But that is not the only choice for good Cuban food. If instead of crossing the street from the conference hotel, you continue on the north side of the street for a bit, you come to a little

shopping center on the right with a lot of choices. The BurgerFi and Starbucks are most visible from the street, but if you turn in there you will see:

- Las Vegas, a local chain run by folks who came in the Mariel boat lift. Their food is great and while the ambience of locations varies, this is among the most pleasant. In the back, they have some round tables, which is nice for talking to everyone in a group, and carpeting which helps with noise. A friend raved about the fruity tropical happy hour drink, which can also be ordered as a nonalcoholic fruit smoothie. They have all the usual Cuban standard dishes, done well. See their menu online at <http://www.lasvegascubancuisine.com/>.
- Next to that is a Peruvian restaurant. They also serve breakfast, and their menu can be found at <http://www.eltaytaperuvianrestaurant.com/>.
- And to the left of that is a sushi restaurant that people rave about. Their website is <http://siamoishi.com/>.
- For casual Italian, Piola is an option. Information for Piola is online at <http://piola-hallandale.eat24hour.com/>.
- For a more formal Italian restaurant near Las Vegas is a branch of the highly regarded Matteo's Trattoria. Their website is <http://matteosristorante.com/>.
- Nando's, which features live piano music, is next to Padrinos. Their menu can be found online at <http://www.viewmenu.com/nandos-restaurant-3/menu?ref=google>.
- Giorgio's Bakery & Bistro has good food, and they bake their breads in-house. Their menu is online at <http://www.giorgiosbakery.com/home.php>.

IV. Conference Tips and Highlights

Presentation Sessions

The AAPOR annual conference has hundreds of presentations and posters on research conducted by AAPOR members and others. The [preliminary conference program](#), including schedules and session titles, is now available on the AAPOR website. The final program includes a full list of presentations, authors, and abstracts and will be posted on the website during the first week in May and provided in hard copy at the conference.

The sheer volume of presentations can be daunting, and we encourage first-time attendees to look through the final program before arriving at the conference to identify the sessions, papers, and posters that may be of particular interest to you. Presentations and posters cover a variety of fields, including survey research methods, health care, politics, economics, education, public policy, and many others. Many AAPOR attendees divide sessions into two types: those that focus on public opinion and those that focus on research methodology. You may get the most out of the conference by planning to attend both types of sessions, regardless of your research interests, since the conference is a good place to learn something new.

This year's conference also has a special track of sessions on "Reassessing Today's Survey Methods," called a mini-conference. These sessions are designed to try to understand the shifting landscape of survey research and data quality. Sessions on non-probability and opt-in panels, new methods for conducting well-established surveys, and AAPOR's Big Data Task Force report are all part of this year's mini-conference.

AAPOR presentation sessions generally consist of 4-5 papers presented by different authors. At previous AAPOR conferences, most presentation sessions were assigned a chair (who

introduces the speakers and manages the question-and-answer period after the presentations) and a discussant (who provides a summary of the papers presented and offers feedback to the authors). Recently the chair and discussant roles were combined into a single facilitator/moderator, a role that is intended to go somewhat beyond the traditional chair role in terms of summarizing themes and offering feedback to the authors, but not quite to the level of discussants (who often would prepare a full presentation summarizing their feedback on the research presented).

It is acceptable to “float” between rooms during sessions if you want to hear one paper in a given session and another in a session taking place at the same time; just be courteous by sitting on the aisle or near the back of the room and try not to leave in the middle of a presentation. Also, we encourage you to ask questions of the presenters at the end of the session or to ask for a copy of the presenter’s paper, which they can usually email to you during or after the conference.

Poster Sessions

Poster sessions are more informal than presentation sessions. There are three poster sessions during the conference, one each on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. Poster presenters set up their posters in the Exhibit Hall and talk about their research as attendees look at the posters during the poster session time. At the same time in the Exhibit Hall, several events will be going on including demonstration sessions of products from companies attending the conference, “Meet the Author” sessions, and snack or dessert breaks. Like session presentations, we encourage you to ask questions of the poster presenters as well as for copies of their papers when you are interested in knowing more about their research.

Short Courses

We would be remiss not to mention the short courses available at the AAPOR annual conference. The short courses occur on Wednesday afternoon, Thursday morning before the conference begins, and on Sunday morning (the last day of the conference), and are led by subject experts in the field. The short courses are not only an opportunity to learn more specific information about a topic of interest to you and your research, but they are also an opportunity to meet leading experts in the field and ask questions about the short course subjects. Short courses are not part of the conference registration, so there is a separate registration for those. You can see the short courses available for this conference at [AAPOR Short Courses](#).

Other conference events

Want to know more about what goes on “behind the scenes” at AAPOR? The **AAPOR Membership and Business Meeting**, held on Saturday from 5:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m., is a great chance for students and early career professionals to learn more about how AAPOR works and to hear about the association’s recent accomplishments and future initiatives. All members are encouraged to attend and to ask questions and exchange ideas with members of AAPOR’s Executive Council and other leaders in the association.

Tweet your conference experience!

Many AAPOR members (those attending the conference as well as those not attending) make use of Twitter during the conference to share interesting tidbits of information they pick up, offer opinions on happenings at the conference, pose questions, or announce events. If you are a Tweeter, join the conversation using hashtag [#AAPOR](#)! There will also be an electronic Twitter board at the conference where you can read what others are posting.

V. Searching for a Job or Internship at AAPOR

The AAPOR conference is a great opportunity to search for a job or internship, or to make professional connections that could lead to a job or internship. It helps to be prepared in advance, so we've organized some helpful tips from members who have successfully found jobs and internships through their connections at the AAPOR conference.

Preparing for the Conference

Prior attendees who have conducted job and internship searches at the conference suggest you prepare a few things before you leave for the conference:

1. Create a résumé or curriculum vita (CV) and/or business cards to give out to interested conference attendees. It helps to look at example layouts and ask for feedback about these from people you trust.
2. Prepare a short (1-2 sentence) summary of your academic program and/or prior training and your particular interests and goals. Be aware of what you have to offer that might set you apart, and be able to frame it in a way that would benefit a potential employer. Keep in mind that employers don't hire people in order to help them further their career; they hire people in order to solve problems or meet challenges within their organization. Note that the larger employers may ask you for your specific interests or goals, your salary requirements, or the position level you believe you are best suited for.
3. Know who will be at the conference ahead of time, and do some research on organizations you may be interested in. Some organizations will send recruiters for speed networking or interviewing sessions, and others will simply have a booth presence or employees attending the conference. Most recruiters would like to see that you are familiar with their organization, and some will expect you to know their organization's activities at AAPOR. For instance, one recent graduate reported that she had been asked which presentations by people at a certain organization she had attended and been most interested in.

A lot of information about who will be at the conference is available on the [AAPOR conference website](#). Some of the information that may be useful in your search includes:

- [Career Center](#): Before leaving for the conference, take a look at AAPOR's Career Center. This resource is available year-round for AAPOR members to search for internships and jobs. Knowing what positions are available before going to the conference can help you target the organizations and jobs that most interest you in your networking efforts.
- [AAPOR Conference Program](#): The conference program provides information about the sessions and speakers, including their organizational affiliation and the topic of their paper, to help you figure out which papers you may want to see. The program also contains names of sponsors, which are organizations and individuals that have provided resources for the conference. Many of these organizations will have booths and/or will participate in the networking sessions at the conference, so these are good organizations to find out more about their open positions and the research projects they work on.
- [Resources for Researchers](#): The resources for researchers available on the AAPOR website can help you determine what areas of public opinion research and survey methodology most interest you, which is a question you'll likely be asked when you tell other conference attendees that you're searching for a job or internship. You can see the variety of fields that AAPOR members come from, and you can find out more about what individual members and their organizations research on this page.

Networking during the Conference

Many activities at the AAPOR annual conference are designed to allow conference attendees opportunities to connect with colleagues and make important professional connections. Sometimes it may seem like the attendees already know each other because some AAPOR members come back to the conference year after year to reconnect with their colleagues. The connections that frequent attendees have are wonderful, but they can also leave you standing awkwardly on the sidelines. New attendees can benefit from their existing educational and employment connections, their mentoring relationships, involvement with their local chapter, and by simply being bold and friendly. One tip for students: don't be afraid to approach unfamiliar faces and strike up conversations, including with those who are senior in their fields. Most long-term AAPORites are thrilled to meet students and learn about their research as well as share their own professional experiences.

The **Exhibit Hall** and **Meet the Authors** is also a great way to meet professionals in the field. The Exhibit Hall includes booths from conference sponsors ranging from commercial survey vendors, to software providers, to academic research programs. In the afternoons on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, authors of newly released books will be available to talk about their books and other research. Many of the authors teach students and enjoy speaking with students at the conference, so take the chance to introduce yourself and meet an author from the field.

For job and internship seekers, a few activities at the conference may be of particular interest to you in your search:

- **[Conference Networking and Social Activities](#)**: The networking and social activities at the conference are a good way to meet new people and learn about their research interests and their work. The conference has formal networking events like speed networking and also fun activities where you have a chance to talk to other AAPOR members, like the AAPOR Fun Run/Walk on Saturday morning and the Casino Night event on Saturday evening. Planning out your activities will help you get the most out of the conference. And don't forget to participate in informal networking at the conference as well. Take advantage of meals, receptions, session breaks, and even the Exhibit Hall early in the mornings to meet new people.
- **Speed Networking**: AAPOR organizes speed networking sessions specifically for jobseekers and recruiters to briefly connect. While these are not official interviews, it helps to take them as seriously as you would an official interview. The sign-up sheet comes out early in the conference and fills up quickly, so try to sign up as early as possible. When your appointment time comes, be sure to arrive early in case the recruiter is running ahead of schedule, dress professionally, have extra copies of your resume or CV ready, and be prepared to discuss the particular organization and the role within it that you are most interested in. Remember that interviews are an opportunity for you to learn more and see if you are interested, and not simply a showcase- no false advertising! Also keep in mind that you are likely to run into your interviewers later during the conference.
- **Conference Booths**: In the Exhibit Hall at the conference (see the [conference program](#) for a map), several organizations sponsor booths where they provide information on the studies and research they are conducting, products and services they sell, as well as job and internship opportunities that are available. Many of these conference booth sponsors also participate in speed networking, although visiting their

booths is a good way to meet multiple individuals from the organization and to find out what each of them does to get a better feel for the organization.

Although this list is not exhaustive, we hope the experiences of AAPOR members who have successfully found a job or internship at the conference will help you to make the most of your conference experience.

VI. Things to Do in Florida (Thanks to Colleen Porter for all of the info below!)

Well, May is the peak month in Broward County for sea turtles to emerge from their nests. The hatchlings are not cared for by parents; rather, they are pre-programmed to head for the lightest part of the horizon, which is the ocean in a natural setting, in order to find food and survival. If there is more light from the street than the sea, it can cause them to become disoriented and die. More information is available at <http://www.sunny.org/beaches/sea-turtles/>.

Hallandale Beach

If you are coming to the conference hotel from the Miami airport, you will be driving along Hallandale Beach Boulevard, which was designed as a "racetrack to the beach." It was indeed wider than most east-west streets when it was first built, but nowadays one can be caught in stop-and-go traffic, surrounded by suburban sprawl. (Although tucked in some of those strip malls are some wonderful cuisine....)

When you go over a bridge and around a corner, you will see the iconic Hallandale Beach water tower, in bright colors with the city name clearly written. The first time I saw it, I thought it was a hot air balloon, but it is actually a beach ball at the top of a water spout. It is easy to think "Hallandale--I'm going to Hollywood--we have a ways yet." But once you make that left turn, you are in Hollywood and only a minute from the Diplomat. The borders of Hollywood are something like an octopus, and there is an appendix that comes down to encompass the bridge over which you just crossed the intercoastal waterway and everything to the north of it on that beachside stretch. Although if your room faces the intercoastal waterway and is high enough to look over the parking garage and past the waterway, you are looking over to Hallandale Beach again. The people of Hallandale Beach love their new water tower; it won an award from the federal Environmental Protection Agency for being "unique," and engendered interest in painting other local water towers, which actually helps with navigation when you are out on a lake or off the coast.

There are several worthwhile eateries along Hallandale Beach Boulevard, within walking distance of the hotel. (The last time that I walked between the Diplomat and the Las Vegas Cuban restaurant, it took me 20 minutes, but I am slow, so probably 15-minute walk for most folks.) Cross Ocean Drive, and take a left toward the water tower. The most dangerous part of the walk is around the 7-11 on the corner, but once you turn right at that corner, the sidewalk over the waterway has a concrete barrier to separate you from motorized traffic. Be sure to stop at the top to enjoy the view and breeze off the water. After you cross over the waterway you will see the bright red Padrinos sign across the street, but I would beg you to wait until the stoplight at the corner to cross over to the south side of the street as it is very dangerous for cars who are cresting the hill of the bridge and have pedestrians ducking out in front of them.

Hollywood Beach

To get an idea of how the Diplomat fits into the Hollywood Beach scene, you can check out the map at <http://www.visithollywoodfl.org/hollywoodmap.pdf>.

You'll probably get a copy of this map in your bag or can pick one up from the hotel. What is not obvious from this 2-dimensional representation is the major change that is underway on Hollywood Beach. See that brightly colored note across from the Hollywood Beach Theater: "Future Site of Margaritaville Resort?" It is scheduled to open later this summer (although not yet taking reservations), and Hollywood Beach will never be quite the same. Up to now, Hollywood Beach has been a mom-and-pop operation with unique restaurants, vintage motels, and a relative lack of corporate influence. Families would come for a week or weekend, staying in a low-rise motel with tile floors (carpeting doesn't work well with sand!) and a kitchen, enjoying a laid-back ambiance.

Why is the Broadwalk so appealing? There is such a panorama of human diversity, bright colors, various music, and a fun atmosphere. My last visit started shortly after 8 a.m. on a Saturday because we were bicycling to breakfast. That time of day, the Broadwalk was pretty deserted and we carefully rode to one side to allow easy passing by the spandex-clad cyclists clocking some serious speeds up and down the route. They had pretty well disappeared by 10 a.m., replaced by families who squeezed a half-dozen kids and grandparents onto a double-wide bicycle-operated surrey. We crossed paths with a lady who chauffeured a colorful cockatoo in her handlebar basket. And the day we were there, 400 Boy Scouts were hiking from West Palm Beach to Miami's South Beach. A couple of the boys were carrying boom boxes on their shoulders to provide a beat for their march, one guy was dribbling a soccer ball as he walked along, many of the adult leaders used hiking poles.

If you head to the Broadwalk, don't miss the observation tower at North Beach Park, the north end of the Hollywood section. If you are walking North from the Diplomat, the tower is kinda hidden by a big yellow building with a red tile roof. Mounting it is a climb, but go at your own pace, and the great thing is that you have a great view from wherever you choose to stop, unlike some mountains that hide their vistas until you actually reach the summit. And be sure to look in all directions, across the intercoastal waterway into West Lake Park as well as out to sea.

The Broadwalk doesn't begin until a mile up the beach from the Diplomat. If you aren't up for that extra hike, you could ride the Hollywood Trolley or the Water Taxi. If you are tired of walking when you get there, you can pick up a bike at the station right at the start of the Broadwalk at Jefferson Street. I checked with the hotel concierge to see if they have an arrangement with one of the private bike rental companies, but she said people usually go up to the Broadwalk to pick up a bicycle. (That system also has a station closer to the Diplomat near the Hallandale Beach tower, but that route might involve some riding along Ocean Drive, with lots of traffic and pedestrians.)

Here is some info on the kiosk bike rental system similar to what they have in London and other big cities <https://broward.bcycle.com/> and there are photos in our album at <http://on.fb.me/18XMFjV>

These are step-through Trek bikes, so if you have ever ridden a bicycle, they would be easy to use and seem pretty well maintained. There are also various bike rental shops along the Broadwalk.

So you could take the Trolley to North Beach Park, climb the tower, then stroll back or rent a bike from the station up there for the return trip, stopping at various restaurants and shops on your way south.

To give you a taste of what is available on the Broadwalk, check out this article:

<http://www.browardpalmbeach.com/restaurants/the-ten-best-hollywood-beach-restaurants-and-bars-to-visit-before-margaritaville-arrives-6900764>

Water Taxi

There is a bridge from the Diplomat entrance over Ocean Drive to the parking garage. But Diplomat Landing is more than just a garage. The Diplomat sports bar is over there, and a few other shops on the lower levels. There is a fountain area with benches, which makes it a nice place to escape if you are feeling "peopled-out" by the conference. And that is where the Water Taxi stop is. <http://watertaxi.com/>

It will take you all the way into Ft. Lauderdale or just up and down the four Hollywood stops. The pricing model is an all-day ticket, \$12 for just the Hollywood route, \$16 for the full route after 5 p.m. I consider them an attraction rather than transportation because they don't come frequently or run very late into the evening and take forever, but they do give you a very different vantage point to see Hollywood and Ft. Lauderdale.

So they were ready for a good time when the Diplomat opened in the early 1950s. And to locals, it has always been the Diplomat, regardless of the word before the name. Here is a history of the hotel: <http://www.oldernotdead.com/travel/kapon/kapon5.asp>

Hollywood Trolley

One of the options for a fun evening might be heading into downtown Hollywood. Nowadays this is very easy via the Hollywood Trolley <http://www.visithollywoodfl.org/trolley.aspx>

I am not sure if the trolley was in service yet during the last AAPOR conference there--it was only being tested during part of 2009. The trial was a huge success, and they have expanded routes while keeping the price at just \$1 a ride (exact change). It only operates Wednesday to Sunday, which will be fine for our conference. There are stops at the Diplomat for both the green/Downtown line and the purple/Beach line that will take you all the way to North Beach Park.

You may be asking, "Why would I want to go to downtown Hollywood?" and a decade ago I would have echoed the skepticism. Hollywood west of the beach had a reputation for being rundown and unsavory. So a few years ago when we needed a hotel room for a brief stop on the way home, I was not surprised that an online search turned up a room at a very reasonable price in central Hollywood. What did surprise me was that when we drove through downtown Hollywood, it was a delight. This was a Saturday in May, and there were lots of people, all kinds of restaurants, appealing shops, and I was glad that I was not driving so that I could just look and take in the fun.

A month later we were exhibiting at the Florida Association of Counties conference, and a Hollywood redevelopment person stopped by our booth. I told him of my favorable impression, saying, "You seem to have an Adams Morgan vibe going on there...."

I started to explain, but he said, "I'm from Washington D.C. That is the nicest compliment ever. We are hoping for a unique street scene."

The area around Young Circle is not near as diverse, loud, or large as Adams Morgan, but it does have a Florida-funk feel. Last fall there were major construction projects underway, but on our recent trip in January, all of the renovated roads were reopened and the construction was limited to just a few sites (new condos). The Arts Park at Young Circle is lovely. They were wise to leave the circle proper as a park and performance venue, but there is a small modern strip mall (Publix, Walgreens) just to the east of the circle. On Monday nights, they have food trucks at the park. On Fridays, it is family-themed, with Funtastic Fridays, a lot of free games and activities aimed at kids 4-11, followed by a movie in the park (bring your own blanket).
<http://www.visithollywoodfl.org/events.aspx>

If you are bringing children to the conference, check with the hotel concierge about which restaurants in that area offer discounts or free meals for children before a certain time on Friday night.

The blocks to the west of Young Circle along Harrison and Hollywood Blvd are a foodie's dream--a wide variety of cuisine from all over the globe--Armenian, Argentinian, Turkish.... The hotel concierge should have current menus and recommendations. I would enjoy wandering around first getting a feel and sniff of where I would like to eat.

Advance reservations would be needed for the famous Lola's on Harrison <http://www.lolasonharrison.com/> in an art deco building that marks the western edge of the dining district, and played a key role in revitalization of the area. Opening in 2007, the restaurant's contemporary American upscale menu quickly became a huge draw, making it a dining destination for folks from all over South Florida and paving the way for other successful restaurants in the neighborhood.

There is also some fun street art in downtown Hollywood--we appreciated a functional yet interesting bike rack in a modern-art interpretation of a local mangrove tree:
<http://tinyurl.com/o32pugz>

VII. Getting The Most Out Of Your AAPOR Membership

There are many ways to learn about the various benefits of AAPOR membership, and we encourage you to visit the [AAPOR website](#), attend the new member welcome webcast (mentioned above), and stop by the AAPOR booth at the conference. Below are just a few highlights of AAPOR member benefits that may be of particular interest to students and early career professionals.

AAPORnet

AAPORnet is a listserv for AAPOR members only. It offers a great way to ask questions about research and methodology, share ideas, see job postings, or just to gain insight into what leading professionals in the field are discussing. AAPORnet is also a useful place to ask questions and get information about the conference from those who have attended many times before.

Social Networks

Find [AAPOR on Facebook](#). Be sure to “like” us and check back often for the latest updates. Facebook is also a great place to see who else is a member of AAPOR and/or will attend the conference. Through Facebook, you can get to know other conference attendees in advance.

[AAPOR is also on LinkedIn](#). LinkedIn is great for job-seekers as well as those looking to network or to post and answer questions about public opinion research, market research, and the like. Some of AAPOR’s chapters also have their own LinkedIn groups, so look up your local chapter!

Webinars

In 2011, AAPOR began offering webinars on a broad spectrum of research topics. This is a great way to learn new skills and information right from your home or office. For students who are members of AAPOR, participation in most live webinars costs only \$15. For more information on upcoming webinars or to purchase recordings, see the [AAPOR Webinars](#) page.

Public Opinion Quarterly (POQ)

Your AAPOR membership includes a free subscription to *Public Opinion Quarterly (POQ)*, including hard copy and online access. Published since 1937, *POQ* is among the most frequently cited journals of its kind and is rated in the top ten scholarly journals in communications, political science, and interdisciplinary social sciences. *POQ* selectively publishes important theoretical contributions to opinion and communication research, analyses of current public opinion, and investigations of methodological issues involved in survey validity including questionnaire construction, interviewing and interviewers, sampling strategy, and mode of administration.

Journal of Survey Statistics and Methodology (JSSAM)

Last year AAPOR added a new interdisciplinary journal to be published in conjunction with the American Statistical Association (ASA). The purpose of *JSSAM* is to publish cutting-edge articles on statistical and methodological issues for surveys and censuses. It also will publish empirical and theoretical papers as well as applied papers and review papers. In addition to *POQ*, AAPOR members receive a free subscription to *JSSAM*.

Survey Practice

Survey Practice is AAPOR's e-journal. It provides current information on issues in survey research and public opinion useful to survey and public opinion practitioners, new survey researchers, and those interested in survey and polling methods. Check it out at <http://www.surveypractice.org/index.php/SurveyPractice>.

Regional Chapters

A great way to learn more about AAPOR while connecting with a smaller group of professionals in your own geographic area is to get involved with one of AAPOR's seven local chapters. Most chapters hold their own local events, ranging from two-day conferences, to short courses and workshops, to happy hours and networking events. Chapters charge an additional fee for membership beyond the AAPOR membership fee, but for students these fees are small (all are under \$20), and like AAPOR, many offer students their first year of membership for free.

You can learn more about the chapters by visiting the individual chapter websites:

- Midwest (MAPOR): www.mapor.org
- Pennsylvania-New Jersey (PANJAAPOR): www.panjaapor.org
- New York (NYAAPOR): www.nyaapor.org
- Pacific (PAPOR): www.papor.org
- Southern (SAPOR): www.southernassociationforpublicopinionresearch.org
- Washington, D.C.-Baltimore (DC-AAPOR): www.dc-aapor.org
- New England (NEAPOR) : neaapor.org

**Don't forget that you can always stop by the
AAPOR booth or the registration table to see a friendly face or ask advice!
See you in Florida!**