

**46th Annual Meeting**  
**Alabama-Mississippi**  
**Sociological Association**



**March Forward: Realizing the Dream  
through the Social Sciences**

**February 26-27, 2015**

**J. Garrick Hardy Student Center  
Ballroom and Theater | 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Montgomery, Alabama**


**[www.a-msa.org](http://www.a-msa.org)**



## ANNOUNCEMENT

➤ **Parking Permit**


Print a copy of the Parking Permit below and display it on your dashboard. Park preferably in the lot directly across from the Student Center. If no spaces are available there, please park in any area on campus except those marked “Reserved” or parking spaces with yellow lines.



**PARKING PASS FOR SYMPOSIUM**

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE  
UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

The bearer of this document is coming to campus for the purpose of an Academic Symposium here at Alabama State University and is required to be on campus for this purpose. This individual is to be allowed to drive onto the campus and park in non-reserved parking. The individual using this document will place it inside of their front windshield so as to allow for easy viewing while parked upon campus. If there are any questions, please contact the Department of Public Safety at 334-229-4400.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Graboys, Chief of Police

# President's Message



It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 46th Annual Meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association (A-MSA) and wish you an enlightening and enjoyable conference at Alabama State University (ASU). As some of you may know, this is the second time that A-MSA has held its annual conference here at ASU. The first time was in November 1970, during the second ever meeting, where thirty schools were represented. ASU has further history with the A-MSA in the form of its fourth elected President, Dr. John Garrick Hardy, who was elected in 1972. In fact, it is an honor to be hosting this year's conference in the building named for him – the John Garrick Hardy Student Center. Dr. Hardy would be proud to see the progress in sociological research that is highlighted by this year's agenda and program.

I would also like to take this opportunity to say a few words about the A-MSA for those of you who are new to the organization. The main objectives of the A-MSA are to support and encourage cooperative relations amongst and to highlight the work being done by sociologists in Alabama and Mississippi with an emphasis on “the improvement of teaching, research, and the applied phases of sociology.” I am proud of what we have accomplished, and excited (though realistic) about facing the many challenges that require robust academic platforms for social research, dynamic discussion, and opportunities to sharpen our sociological knowledge. It is with these challenges in mind that I encourage you to think strongly about this year's conference theme: “March Forward: Realizing the Dream through the Social Sciences.”

Finally, I wish to welcome you all to Montgomery and the surrounding River Region and to thank those who have made this event possible. We are getting ready to celebrate two major Civil Rights events, the 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and the 50<sup>th</sup> year remembrance of the Selma to Montgomery March. ASU has played a large part both in the historical planning of those original events and in the contemporary planning of their celebrations. I'm sure you'll have a chance to discuss some of these moments in the various Civil Rights presentations and panels at this year's conference. We are indebted to this year's sponsors including New South Books, Inc., Gourmet Services, Inc., The John Garrick Hardy Student Center, and Alabama State University. Please enjoy your conference, and if you get a chance, take some time to enjoy the various museums, monuments, sites, and fantastic food around the city!

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anthony Troy Adams'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Anthony Troy Adams, Ph.D.  
A-MSA President  
Professor of Sociology and Interim Dean  
College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences  
Alabama State University

# Provost's Message



As a Sociologist, let me start by conveying my appreciation to all who have worked hard to make this 46th annual meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association a success. I am pleased to see the progress in the social sciences, particularly in Sociology, being highlighted in the research presentations, panels, and posters of this conference. I applaud the faculty and students who are contributing to the abundant research activities which are significant for social development and representation. I am sure that the conference participants will benefit and bear witness by learning more about A-MSA, the historic campus of Alabama State University, and the City of Montgomery, which is planning to commemorate two major Civil Rights events in 2015 - these being the Bus Boycott and the Selma to Montgomery March. Accordingly, it is a great privilege for me to invite all A-MSA participants to the River Region to engage in a national conversation for a better future for all.

One of my strong commitments as Provost is to elevate the rich academic and professional legacies of ASU as a catalyst for future directions. I strongly support this conference of A-MSA and other events like it, as they pay homage to our past and the struggles that have been overcome so we can boldly clear a path to a better future. The theme of the conference, "March Forward: Realizing the Dream through the Social Sciences", emphasizes the importance of our history, social struggles, and directs sociological research to build a brighter tomorrow.

Hosting the 2015 A-MSA conference at ASU is substantially important for us as it demonstrates the vital connection with our University's history and the Civil Rights dialogue. In confronting the challenges of Civil Rights, Poverty, Social Inequality, Self-determination, Domestic Violence, Racial and Ethnic Tensions, and Economic Growth, we need to build bridges to the wider community. Numerous presentations and panels in this conference represent ongoing joint collaborations between community organizations and our campus. It is crucial that we continue to maintain and expand the university's outreach and collaboration with these institutions and individuals.

The number of students and community members participating and presenting research findings in this program demonstrates the degree to which our professors are engaging with interest groups for the purposes of learning and engaging in research. I urge the faculty to include students at every level in their research so we can produce students who are well-prepared to enter the competitive global marketplace.

I wish all presenters and participants a great conference and encourage you to continue your hard work to make our world a better place for future generations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leon Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "L".

**Leon Wilson, Ph.D.**

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs and  
Professor of Sociology  
Alabama State University

## Sponsorship and Special Thanks

The 46<sup>th</sup> annual A-MSA meeting would not have been possible without the support of the following entities and persons:

- Each participant who submitted an abstract and to those who agreed to present their research at this conference.
- Alabama State University for allowing us to use the facilities at the John Garrick Hardy Student Center.
- Mrs. Crystal J. Jackson, Alabama State University Facility Coordinator for setting up the Ballrooms for the A-MSA conference.
- Dr. John Green, University of Mississippi for accepting and making sure all abstracts were properly routed.
- Dr. Lynn Woo for her patience and dedication to the success of this year's conference.
- All members of the A-MSA who assisted in the organization of the 2015 A-MSA conference.
- Dr. Ram Alagan for agreeing to volunteer with the organization in several capacities including formatting the program, completion of name tag template, and designing the posters.
- Dr. Delilah Dotremon who willingly and readily assisted with the editing of the program.
- Lauren Holder Multimedia Specialist & Web Master for her help with the A-MSA webpage.
- New South Book Publishing Company for agreeing to participate in our conference.
- Dr. Barbara Harris Cum for agreeing to be the Keynote Speaker for this conference.
- Dr. Leon Wilson, Provost and Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Alabama State University, for his support and leadership in this conference, and for being the first Lifetime Member of the Alabama Mississippi Sociological Association.



## 2014-2015 A-MSA Executive Board

### **President**

Anthony Troy Adams, PhD  
*Alabama State University*

### **President Elect**

Thomas M. Kersen, PhD  
*Jackson State University*

### **Treasurer**

Lynn Woo, PhD  
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Brenda I. Gill, PhD  
*Alabama State University*

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Renna Clements, PhD  
*Shelton State University*

### **Members-At-Large (AL)**

Jeneve Brooks, PhD  
*Troy University*

Yanyi K. Djamba, PhD  
*Auburn University, Montgomery*

Richard Duque, PhD  
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### **Paper Competition**

Steven Grice  
*Mississippi State University*

Kim Steil, PhD  
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### **Awards Committee**

Alma Calix, MA (Chair)  
*Hinds Community College*

Annice Yarber, PhD

*Auburn University, Montgomery*

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*Mississippi State University*

Kim Steil, PhD  
*Hinds Community College*

Jason Smith, PhD  
*Mississippi State University*

**Paper Competition**  
Jason Smith, PhD  
*Mississippi State University*

# 2014-2015 Conference Committee

## **Program Chair**

Anthony Troy Adams, PhD

## **Poster Competition Committee**

Renna Clements, PhD  
*Shelton State University*

## **Paper Competition Committee**

Steven Grice, PhD  
*Mississippi State University*

Jason Smith, PhD

Member-at-Large (MS)  
*Mississippi State University*

Kim Steil, PhD

*Hinds Community College*  
Member-at-Large (MS)

Jeneve Brooks, PhD

*Troy University*  
Member-at-Large (AL)

## **Awards Committee**

Alma Calix, MA  
*Hinds Community College*

Annice Yarber, PhD

*Auburn University-Montgomery*





## Past Presidents of the A-MSA

2015	Anthony Troy Adams, Alabama State University
2014	Alma Judith Calix, Hinds Community College
2013	Annice Yarber, Auburn University Montgomery
2012	Lynne Cossman, Mississippi State University
2011	Geoff McIntyre, Troy University
2010	John J. Green, Delta State University
2009	David G. LoConto, Jacksonville State University
2008	Domenico "Mimmo" Parisi, Mississippi State University
2007	Kimberly P. Brackett, Auburn University Montgomery
2006	Gary L. Long, University of Mississippi
2005	Dennis L. Peck, University of Alabama
2004	Duane Gill, Mississippi State University
2003	John E. Dunkelberger, Auburn University
2002	Albert B. Nylander III, Delta State University
2001	Larry Hall, Spring Hill College
2000	Lee Darlin, Mississippi College
1999	Donald W. Bogie, Auburn University Montgomery
1998	Vaughn L. Grisham, University of Mississippi
1997	Jerri Bullard, University of North Alabama
1996	Mary A. Kuhn, Hinds Community College
1995	J. Selwyn Hollingsworth, University of Alabama
1994	Frank M. Howell, Mississippi State University
1993	Carol Chenault, Calhoun Community College
1992	Allen Scarboro, Millsaps College
1991	Danny E. Harrison, Auburn University Montgomery
1990	John Saunders, Mississippi State University
1989	Yedehalli Mohan, Stillman College
1988	Columbus B. Hopper, University of Mississippi
1987	Billy T. Lindsey, University of North Alabama
1986	Walter Davis, Tougaloo College
1985	Rodney Friery, Jacksonville State University
1984	Mary E. Benjamin, Jackson State University
1983	Harriet D. Calhoun, Jefferson State Junior College
1982	Andrew E. Baird, Mississippi State University
1981	John E. Dunkelberger, Auburn University
1980	Vaughn L. Grisham, University of Mississippi
1978*	Roy S. Brigance, Samford University
1977	Joe Portera, Mississippi University for Women
1976	H. S. Abdul-Hadi, University of North Alabama
1975	Carlton R. Sollie, Mississippi State University
1974	John P. Reed, University of South Alabama
1973	Donald R. South, University of Southern Mississippi
1972	J. Garrick Hardy, Alabama State University
1971	N. Wilbur Carpenter, Mississippi College
1970	Harry E. Dickerson, Samford University
1969	Harold F. Kaufman, Mississippi State University

\*In 1978 no fall meeting was held since the meeting was moved to January, 1979.



## **Did you know?**

A-MSA was established in 1969 when 12 sociologists from 11 institutions of higher learning from Mississippi and Alabama met at the University of Alabama to form a new bi-state organization. The first conference of this organization was held in the fall of 1969 at Mississippi State University; 100 sociologists attended, representing 22 schools from both states. The following year, A-MSA's second conference was held at Alabama State University where 30 schools were represented. Following this tradition, A-MSA's annual meetings continue to alternate between Mississippi and Alabama.

The primary objectives of A-MSA are to (1) promote collaborations among sociologists of both states and (2) to enhance sociological teaching, research and applications. As any organization evolves this society of professionals and students has also added an additional goal of stimulating the development of knowledge in a cooperative atmosphere where sociology along interdisciplinary fields is useful in the analysis and development of resolutions to social problems.

Alabama State University is delighted to be the host institution for the 2015 Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Conference. We look forward to seeing all of you on our beautiful campus. Welcome to the "Land of Opportunity"; let the presentations begin!



## Sessions at a Glance

### March Forward: Realizing the Dream through the Social Sciences

2015 Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Conference

**Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

Time	Event	Location		
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Conference Registration (all day)	Lobby, 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor		
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Executive Board Meeting	Ballroom B (2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor)		
11:00 pm – 12:10 pm	<b>Lunch on your own</b>			
12:15 pm – 12:50 pm	<b>WELCOME</b> A-MSA President, Dr. Anthony Troy Adams Professor of Sociology and Interim Dean for the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Dr. Leon Wilson, ASU Provost and Vice-president for Academic Affairs,			
TIME	THEATER	BALLROOM B	BALLROOM A	BALLROOM C
1:00- 2:00	<b>Session 1</b> Presenters: <i>Santee Ezell</i> <i>Russell Davis</i> <i>Tatiana Clark</i> <i>Ram Alagan</i>	-	<b>Panel 1</b> Presenters: <i>Dominique Tarrant</i> <i>Kimari Collier</i> <i>Shameca Welch,</i> <i>Brandon Willis</i> <i>Brenda I. Gill</i>	<b>Session 2</b> Presenters: <i>Fallon Sutton</i> <i>Charlie Coats</i>
2:15-3:15	<b>Panel 2</b> Presenters: <i>Seela Aladuwaka</i> <i>Brenda Gill</i> <i>Pual Erhunmunsee</i> <i>Carol Ann Dennis</i> <i>Ram Alagan</i>	-	<b>Session 3</b> Presenters: <i>Michael Driver</i> <i>Carolina Canarios</i>	<b>Session 4</b> Presenters: <i>Lynne Schneider</i> <i>Sandra Staton-Taiwo</i> <i>Christopher Darrel Peace</i>
3:30-4:30	<b>Session 5</b> Presenters: <i>Saleh Alsoghair</i> <i>Uriel Ross</i> <i>Ram Alagan</i> <i>Laura Burmeister</i>	-	<b>Session 6</b> Presenters: <i>Jacqueline Chavez,</i> <i>Jeff Lee</i> <i>Donna Oliver</i> <i>Elisha Dung</i> <i>Randall Brent Lee</i>	<b>Session 7</b> Presenters: <i>Amanda Ferguson</i> <i>Summer O'Neil</i> <i>Carlos D. Morrison</i>
4:45-5:45	Campus Tour			
6:30 - Banquet	Banquet---Ballroom B Keynote Speaker, Dr. Barbara Harris Combs			

## Session at a Glance

### March Forward: Realizing the Dream through the Social Sciences

2015 Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Conference

**Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

Time	Event			Location
8:00 am - 2:00 pm	Conference Registration (all day)			2 <sup>nd</sup> floor Student Center
TIME	THEATER	BALLROOM B	BALLROOM A	BALLROOM C
8:30 - 9:30 am	Panel 3 <b>Presenters:</b> <i>John J. Green</i> <i>Linda Stringfellow</i> <i>Caitlin Brooking</i> <i>Natya Jones</i> <i>Kei Mamiya</i>	-	Session 8 <b>Presenters:</b> <i>Elizabeth Peifer</i> <i>Kavon Franklin</i> <i>Jeneve Brook,</i> <i>Samantha Earnest</i> <i>Brandon Warden</i> <i>Andnya Watford</i> <i>T. Lee Williams</i>	Session 9 <b>Presenters:</b> <i>Kathryn Adams</i> <i>Ram Alagan</i> <i>Ernest Rockwell</i> <i>Tyson L. Platt</i>
9:45 - 10:45 am	Session 10 <b>Presenters:</b> <i>Yanyi Djamba</i> <i>Simon Luetze</i> <i>Andrew Zekeri</i>	-	Session 11 <b>Presenters:</b> <i>Destiny Keys</i> <i>Yolanda Lester</i> <i>Hannah Williams</i> <i>Allan Kouns</i> <i>Willette Brye</i>	Session 12 <b>Presenters:</b> <i>Jillian L. Cowart</i> <i>Brandon Price- Crum</i> <i>Gabrielle Herman</i>
11:00-12:00 pm	Session 13 <b>Presenters:</b> <i>Xiaoli Su</i> <i>Jessica E. Platt</i> <i>Tyson L. Platt</i> <i>Robert White</i> <i>Ram Alagan</i>	-	Session 14 <b>Presenters:</b> <i>Delilah Dotremon</i> <i>Elisha Dung</i> <i>Ruben Gonzalez</i> <i>Mary Anne Martin</i> <i>Bonnie Mitchell</i>	Session 15 <b>Presenters:</b> <i>John Green</i> <i>Ben Walker</i> <i>John McCown</i> <i>Gita M. Smit</i> <i>Janiece Austin</i>
12:30 pm Lunch	LUNCH: Awards Ceremony Ballroom B Closing /Farewell			

# March Forward: Realizing the Dream through the Social Sciences

**Thursday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

*John Garrick Hardy Student Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor*

## **Registration**

**8:00 am – 11:00 am**

Lobby, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor

**1:00 pm – 4:30 pm**

## **Executive Board Meeting**

**9:30 am – 11:00 am**

*Ballroom B (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor)*

## **Lunch on your own**

**11:00- 12:00 pm**

## **A-MSA Welcome** *Ballroom B*

**12:15-12:55 pm**

*Dr. Anthony Troy Adams, PhD., President, Alabama –Mississippi Sociological Association, Professor of Sociology and Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Social Science.*

*Dr. Leon C. Wilson, PhD., Provost and Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Alabama State University.*

**Panel 1: Enhancing the University Experience Using Service Learning**

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

*Ballroom A*

**Moderator:** Takesha Jones, *Alabama State University*

*Presentations*

**Be the Change You Want to See: Engaging Introductory Students in Service Learning**

*Sharon Everhardt, Troy University*

**Bridging the Gap between Service Learning and Course Content: Students' Perceptions and Experiences at Alabama State University**

*Dominique Tarrant, Alabama State University*

*Kimari Collier, Alabama State University*

*Shameca Welch, Alabama State University*

*Brandon Willis, Alabama State University*

*Brenda I. Gill, Alabama State University*

**Session 1: Finding the Dream through a College Education**

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

*Theater*

**Moderator:** Ram Alagan, *Alabama State University*

*Presentations:*

**Marching Upward or Marching Downward: The American Dream and the Pursuit of Happiness**

*Santee Ezell, Delta State University*

**Moving Up: Social Mobility, First Generation College Students and Subjective Well-Being**

*Russell Davis, University of West Alabama*

**Birmingham, Alabama Educational Challenges: A Case of African American Students vs. Charter Schools**

*Tatiyanna Clark, Alabama State University*

*Ram Alagan, Alabama State Department*

**Book Publishers Exhibition** - *Lobby, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – New South Books*

**Session 2: Voices from Social Activists**

**1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

*Ballroom C*

**Moderator:** Jeneve Brooks, *Troy University*

Presentations:

**Margaret Walker: Poet, Writer, and Social Activist**  
*Fallon Sutton, Jackson State University*

**Leaning to the Left, but Fighting for the Right: Public Sociology as a Form of Dialogue**  
*Charlie Coats, Jackson State University*

**Panel 2: The Growing Power of Women: Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Poverty Eradication**

**2:15pm – 3:15 pm**

*Theater*

**Moderator:** Seela Aladuwaka *Alabama State University*

*Seela Aladuwaka, Alabama State University*  
*Brenda I. Gill, Alabama State University*  
*Paul Erhunmunsee, Alabama State University*  
*Carol Ann Dennis, Alabama State University*  
*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*

**Session 3: Looking to the Future**

**2:15pm – 3:15 pm**

*Ballroom A*

**Moderator:** Jillian L. Cowart, *University of Mississippi*

Presentations:

**Own Your Employment: The Challenge for 21st Century Workers**  
*Michael Driver, Freelance Writer*

**From Seed to Sale: Exploring Farm Workers' Perspectives on Work Life and Well-being**  
*Carolina Canarios, University of Mississippi*

**Session 4: Intermingling of Sociology and Literature**

**2:15pm – 3:15 pm**

*Ballroom C*

**Moderator:** Lynne Schneider, Alabama State University

Presentations:

**The Military and the Worth of Man: Shakespeare's Histories Set the Modern Ideological Stage**

*Lynne Schneider, Alabama State University*

**W. E. B. Du Bois's Study of Lowndes County Alabama and His Novel, Quest for the Silver Fleece: The Intersection of Sociology and Literature and how one was exchanged for the other**

*Sandra Staton-Taiwo, Alabama State University*

**The Un/Spoken Sacred and Profane**

*Christopher Darrel Peace, Jackson State University*

**Session 5: International Sociological Views**

**3:30 am – 4:30 pm**

*Theater*

**Moderator:** Laura Burneister, Troy University

Presentations:

**Citizen Participation in Rural Community Development Centers: An Example from Saudi Arabia**

*Saleh Alsoghair, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia*

**Revisiting Jamaica: Exploring Socializing the Jamaican Way**

*Uriel Rose, Alabama State University*

*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*

**Finding Middle Grounds: Australian Children, Racial Identities and Public Policy**

*Laura Burmeister, Troy University*

**Session 6: Youthful Dilemmas**

**3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

*Ballroom A*

**Moderator:** Elisha Dung, Alabama State University

Presentations:

**What Happens in College Stays in College: A Snapshot of Hazing Explanations**

*Jacqueline Chavez, Troy University*

*Jeff Lee, Troy University*

*Donna Oliver, Troy University*



**Students' Perceptions of the University Dress Code: The Influence of Gender, Age, Classification and Major**

*Elisa Dung, Alabama State University*

**Everyone's Doing It: Undergraduate Substance Use and Subjective Well-Being**

*Randall Brent Lee, University of West Alabama*

**Session 7: Framing Challenges**

**3:30 pm – 4:30 pm**

*Ballroom C*

**Moderator:** Carlos D. Morrison, Alabama State University

Presentations:

**Social Media and Happiness: So Many, So Much, So What?**

*Amanda Ferguson, University of West Alabama*

**I Don't Care if Anybody Gets It: 'I'm Going as the Doppler Effect!' Autism, Television and the Masquerade**

*Summer O'Neal, Alabama State University*

**Reframing the Comic Frame of Hurricane Katrina": Frame Analysis and the Rhetoric of Aaron McGruder's *Boondocks*.**

*Carlos D. Morrison, Alabama State University*

**Campus Tour**

**4:45- 5:45 pm**

**Awards Banquet** *Ballroom B*

**6:30 pm**

**Special Presentation:** *A Flavor of Alabama through Music and Poetry*

# **Submitted Student Papers to Be Considered for Awards**

*Lobby, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

## **The Effects of Parental Support on Academic Success among DSU College Students**

*Destiny Keys, Delta State University  
Yolanda Lester, Delta State University  
Hannah Williams, Delta State University*

## **Margaret Walker: Poet, Writer, and Social Activist**

*Fallon Sutton, Jackson State University*

## **Leaning to the Left, but Fighting for the Right: Public Sociology as a Form of Dialogue**

*Charlie Coats, Jackson State University*

## **Local Food Systems and Development**

*Jillian L. Cowart, University of Mississippi*

## **The Un/Spoken Sacred and Profane**

*Christopher Darrel Peace, Jackson State University*

## **Discrimination of the Elderly**

*Simon Luetze, Shelton State Community College*

## **Revisiting Jamaica: Exploring Socializing the Jamaican Way**

*Uriel Rose, Alabama State University*

# March Forward: Realizing the Dream through the Social Sciences

## Friday, February 27<sup>st</sup>

### **Registration**

8:00 am - 11:00 pm

*Lobby, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

### **Book Publishers Exhibition**

9:00 am – 12:00 pm

*Lobby, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor*

### **Panel 3: Research Findings from the Mississippi Delta Area**

8:30 am – 9:30 am

*Ballroom A*

**Moderator:** John Green, University of Mississippi

Panel: 3

#### **Building Organizational Capacity for Social Development in the Mississippi Delta: A Panel on Research and Practice for Community-University Partnerships**

*John J. Green, University of Mississippi*

*Linda Stringfellow, Delta State University*

*Caitlin Brooking, University of Mississippi*

*Natya Jones, University of Mississippi*

*Kei Mamiya, University of Mississippi*

### **Session 8: Using Sociology to Study Race**

8:30 am – 9:30 am

*Theater*

**Moderator:** Elizabeth Peifer, Alabama State University

Presentations:

#### **Marching for Freedom: The Marginalization of East German Dissidents in the Unification Narrative**

*Elizabeth Peifer, Alabama State University*

#### **The Colourism Complex**

*Kavon Franklin, Alabama State University*

**In Black and White: Interracial Focus Groups Reflect on Race Relations**

*Jeneve Brooks, Troy University*  
*Samantha Earnest, Troy University*  
*Brandon Warden, Troy University*  
*Andnya Watford, Troy University*  
*T. Lee Williams, Troy University*

**Session 9: Finding Ourselves**

**8:30 am – 9:30 am**

*Ballroom C*

**Moderator:** Tyson Platt, Alabama State University

Presentations:

**It's Complicated: An Analysis of Romantic Relationship Status and Happiness**

*Kathryn Adams, University of West Alabama*

**Youth Soccer as a Vehicle for Social Change: Case Studies from Abroad, Around the Country, and Our Hometown**

*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*  
*Ernest Rockwell, Maxwell Air Force, Montgomery, Alabama*

**The Transmission of Cultural Values through Professional Wrestling: A Cross-Cultural Comparison**

*Tyson L. Platt Alabama State University*

**Session 10: Social Issues in Alabama**

**9:45 am – 10:45 am**

*Theater*

**Moderator:** Dr. Anthony Troy Adams, Alabama State University

Presentations:

**The Socio-demographic Analysis of the Older Population in Alabama**

*Yanyi Djamba, Auburn University-Montgomery*

**Discrimination of the Elderly**

*Simon Luetze, Shelton State Community College*

**Factors Associated with Belief in Conspiracies about HIV/AIDS among HIV-Positive African Americans**

*Andrew Zekeri, Tuskegee University*

**Session 11: Working on Educational Goals**

**9:45 am – 10:45 am**

*Ballroom A*

**Moderator:** Willette Brye, Delta State University

Presentations:

**The Effects of Parental Support on Academic Success among DSU College Students**

*Destiny Keys, Delta State University*

*Yolanda Lester, Delta State University*

*Hannah Williams, Delta State University*

**A-MSA/A-KEEP: A-KEEP, or the Alabama-Korea Education and Economic Partnership**

*Alan Kouns, A-MSA/A-KEEP*

**Addressing Barriers to Math Achievement: Examining the Multifaceted Concept of Math Anxiety among Boys and Girls**

*Willette Brye, University of South Alabama*

**Session 12: Suggestions for Community Change**

**9:45 am – 10:45 am**

*Ballroom C*

**Moderator:** Paul Erhunmwunsee, Alabama State University

Presentations:

**Local Food Systems and Development**

*Jillian L. Cowart, University of Mississippi*

**The Future of Our Nation and Ultimately Our World**

*Brandon Price- Crum, Alabama State University*

**Sex and Religion: Explorations of University Students' Sexual Activities and Religious Beliefs**

*Gabrielle Herman, University of Mississippi*

**Session 13: Sociological Answers**

**11:00 am – 12:00 pm**

*Theater*

**Moderator:** Robert White, Alabama State University

Presentations:

**Revisiting the Concept of Criminal Rehabilitation**

*Xiaoli Su, Troy University*

**Reducing Research Anxiety in Undergraduate Students: The Effects of Information Literacy Training on Library Anxiety**

*Jessica E. Platt, Alabama State University*

*Tyson L. Platt, Alabama State University*

**Using the Slave Narratives to Answer the Epistemological Question: What Role Does the Slave Narrative Play in Assisting HBCU students in Developing Literary-based Truth Claims?**

*Robert White, Alabama State University*

*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*

**Session 14: Exploration of Sociological Issues**

**11:00 – 12:00 pm**

*Ballroom A*

**Moderator:** Ruben Gonzalez, Alabama State University

Presentations:

**Forgotten Voices from the Selma to Montgomery Marches**

*Delilah Dotremon, Alabama State University*

*Elisha Dung, Alabama State University*

*Ruben Gonzalez, Alabama State University*

**Dr. M.L. King's Beloved Community Ideals Based on Good Character**

*Mary Anne Martin, One Montgomery*

**An Outsider's View of the Journey Still Ahead for Montgomery, Alabama**

*Bonnie Mitchell, Troy University*

**Session 15: Sociology and Social Problems**

**11:00 – 12:00 pm**

*Ballroom C*

**Moderator:** Janiece Austin, Hinds Community College

Presentations:

**Obesity and the Risk-Behavior-Environment Nexus: Exploration of Factors Associated with Obesity among Children and Adults in Mississippi**

*John Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies*

*Ben Walker, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center*

*John McCown, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center*

**Dining With the Homeless**

*Gita M. Smith, Alabama State University*

**Running Head: Bullying and its Effects on the Victim**

*Janiece Austin, Hinds Community College*

# **March Forward: Realizing the Dream through the Social Sciences**

## **LUNCH & AWARDS**

**Friday, February 27<sup>st</sup>**

**Ballroom B**

**12:30 pm**



## ABSTRACTS

### Panel 1

#### **Bridging the Gap between Service Learning and Course Content: Students' Perceptions and Experiences at Alabama State University**

Dominique Tarrant, *Alabama State University*  
Kimari Collier, *Alabama State University*  
Shameca Welch, *Alabama State University*  
Brandon Willis, *Alabama State University*  
Brenda I. Gill, *Alabama State University*

Academic Service Learning is an educational experience based upon a collaborative partnership between the university and the community. "Learning by doing" enables students to apply academic knowledge and critical thinking skills to meet genuine community needs. Through reflection and assessment, students gain a deeper understanding of course content and the importance of civic engagement. Service participation has also been significantly associated with improved academic performance, positive values, self-efficacy, leadership, choice of a service career, and plans to participate in service after college. This panel session focuses on the experiences students have had in completing service learning in the community and how their experiences were related to the class content of the enrolled course.

#### **Be the Change You Want to See: Engaging Introductory Students in Service Learning**

*Sharon Everhardt, Troy University*

This presentation will discuss a newly formed service learning project with the Central Alabama Fair Housing Center (CAFHC) in an Introduction to Sociology course. The aim of this project is to provide students with the opportunity to become involved in their community while applying the course material they learn in the "real" world. Students participating in this project are assisting the CAFHC with a promotional campaign while learning about housing, lending, and insurance discrimination in Montgomery, AL. This presentation will share the logistics of planning this project, student responses regarding their involvement in this project as well as future plans for the continuation of the project.

### Panel 2

#### **Gender Equality, Women's Empowerment and Poverty Eradication**

*Seela Aladuwaka, Alabama State University*  
*Brenda I. Gill, Alabama State University*  
*Paul Erhunmunsee, Alabama State University*  
*Carol Ann Dennis, Alabama State University*  
*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*

United Nations Development Program highlights gender equality and women's empowerment not only as a human rights issue but also because it is a pathway to achieving the Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development (UNDP, 2014). Eradication of global poverty has been the first millennium development goal, yet the world is far from achieving it. Though some progress has been made, poverty remains one of the most severe problems in the world with over one billion people living on \$1 a day or

less (World Bank, 2014). Of all the people living in poverty, women constitute 70 percent of the world's poor (UN, 2010), this phenomenon is referred to as the "feminization of poverty." The gendered nature of economic disparity and gender inequality in education, health, access to credit, access to land or control of land, and other resources and decision making affects women disproportionately. Thus, addressing gender inequality and empowerment of women should be at the core of tackling global poverty. The Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women identified the eradication of the persistent and increasing burden of poverty on women's needs as deserving of special attention and action by the international community, governments and civil society (UN, 2000). This panel examines gender inequalities and poverty from regional and global perspectives and emphasizes the need to understand challenges faced by women. It highlights the need for change at the policy level and in programs that foster needed social changes to eradicate poverty among women and societies at large.

### Panel 3

#### **Building Organizational Capacity for Social Development in the Mississippi Delta: A Panel on Research and Practice for Community-University Partnerships**

*John J. Green, University of Mississippi*

*Linda Stringfellow, Delta State University*

*Caitlin Brooking, University of Mississippi*

*Natya Jones, University of Mississippi*

*Kei Mamiya, University of Mississippi*

Community-university partnerships are increasingly recognized for their potential to help nonprofit and other local organizations to build capacity while also providing opportunities for hands-on student learning. This panel presentation will reflect on four different initiatives to build capacity for social development through this type of engagement. Panelists represent faculty, students, and practitioners, and they will present findings from their work with the Quitman County Development Organization, New Pathways to Health Initiative, AmeriCorps\*VISTA, and the Delta Directions Consortium. Findings from real-world research projects will be shared in conjunction with lessons learned about the development, maintenance, and enhancement of community-university efforts.

### Session 1

#### **Marching Upward or Marching Downward: The American Dream and the Pursuit of Happiness**

*Santee Ezell, Delta State University*

The paper consists of examining how "The American Dream" has become unreachable for many in society due to structured patterns. "The American Dream" was an opportunity for all to experience peace, freedom, exercise our rights, experience prosperity, and the pursuit of happiness. Since the dream has been changed to center on the material assets an individual has, it has become the "American Nightmare" due to structured inequalities. The system of stratification includes race, gender, and class, and this paper examines how this system produces different life chances for individuals within society. Many people in society struggle to have a decent quality of life, because social stratification and life chances create a structure of power that allows entire groups to experience opportunity or oppression. From a family's location to their occupation, their life chances and experiences are different and varied. Contrary to popular belief, most families will not have a chance to experience the "American Dream" due to social stratification. Social stratification includes: racial stratification, poverty, social class, and life chances and

how each affects the institution of the family. This topic is interesting, because we all can agreed or disagreed in how each individual has an opportunity to succeed in America.

### **Moving Up: Social Mobility, First Generation College Students and Subjective Well-Being**

*Russell Davis, University of West Alabama*

Stratification research documents a consistent positive relationship between socioeconomic status and well-being. At the individual level, higher social status is associated with increased levels of objective and subjective well-being. Within the subjective well-being literature, studies generally focus on the distribution of happiness across the socioeconomic continuum. Relatively less research attention has investigated how subjective well-being is related to the social mobility process. Unclear within the literature is how or if happiness changes as individuals make the transition from lower to higher social status locations. This study begins to address this gap in the literature by examining happiness among first generation college students. Specifically this study tests: a) if levels of happiness are significantly different between first generation college students and those from college educated households; and b) if these differences are moderated by class rank. Analysis is performed using linear regression analysis and survey data collected from undergraduate students with focus being on a small southern university in a rural setting and with mixed race and class subjects.

### **Birmingham, Alabama Educational Challenges: A Case of African American Students vs. Charter Schools**

*Tatiana Clark, Alabama State University*

*Ram Alagan, Alabama State Department*

This research paper underlines the current public educational policy concerning African American education without charter schools and the current challenges in Birmingham Alabama. Birmingham was founded in 1871. Birmingham being the great city that it is should also be acknowledged as the largest city in Alabama. With that being said, there should be no excuse for over half of the citizens of Birmingham not being college educated. All African-Americans should pursue higher education to the best of their abilities. Due to the crime rate and failure of education, a majority of Birmingham citizens are either in jail or on their way to incarceration or death. Those should not be the only options of our future leaders. We have had only a few political figures give back to the community, which is not enough. We need more of our own community helping us. To achieve success, a better education should be the answer so we must bring charter schools to the public awareness. In order to explore the current educational challenges, this research paper will explore the educational policy formulation and accompanying social issues. This paper will compare and contrast the merits of charter schools and public schools and it will also explore a world without charter schools.

Session 2

### **Margaret Walker: Poet, Writer, and Social Activist**

*Fallon Sutton, Jackson State University*

This paper seeks to tie Margaret Walker Alexander's work to Sociology and to examine the depth of her contributions over the years. Dr. Walker devoted most of her life to fighting for social justice for her people. Dr. Walker wrote poems and essays telling of the pain and struggle that African Americans had to face and what they should do to change their situations. Margaret Walker was an English Professor on paper but at heart she taught Sociology. Margaret was reared up by generations of teachers. She received her Ph.D. in English in 1965 from the University of Iowa after being rejected by Jackson State College (Alexander 1995). This paper will attempt to show the struggles she faced due to being Black and for

being a woman. Her fight for social justice throughout her life and work will be highlighted. Her most ingenious works came from facing sexism and racism. As she stated in an interview, these barriers dominated her career but she fought to change that stigmatization (Joyce 2005). Dr. Walker was also instrumental in the Ayers Court Trial to desegregate higher education in Mississippi and she was instrumental in changing the “confederate” history book to *Challenge and Change* by Charles Sallis and James W. Loewen (Walker 2002). Dr. Walker’s essays and interviews reveal her critical acumen as a political analyst (Joyce 2005).

### **Leaning to the Left, but Fighting for the Right: Public Sociology as a Form of Dialogue**

*Charlie Coats, Jackson State University*

This paper examines the role of early American Sociology in Historically Black colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as a ‘public good’ and how C. Wright Mills’ sociological imagination molded Sociology into becoming ‘public’ in the American South. As Sociology became more influential in American colleges and universities during the late 19th century, HBCUs began to capitalize on it as a result these schools created multi-disciplinary views that look at sociology through a different lens. HBCUs are also responsible for the development of American Sociology that is often ignored. Different universities began to divide Sociology into little parts that benefited their ideologies; therefore, Sociology has become less conscious when used to understand the social world and this has weakened it. In order to explore the role of American Sociology in HBCUs in the American South, this paper will focus on how Sociology was used to promote social inquiry. This research paper challenges the argument that public Sociology is a new sub-discipline. Some view sociology as becoming ‘public’ when C. Wright Mills entered the discussion with his “sociological imagination,” but that is not true. This paper will also explain how Sociology can be used to bring about social change, thereby, following the tradition of sociologists as social activists like: Emile Durkheim, W.E.B. DuBois, George Edmund Haynes, and Jane Addams.

### Session 3

#### **Own Your Employment: The Challenge for 21st Century Workers**

*Michael Driver, freelance writer*

Salaried and hourly workers face unprecedented economic and social pressures in a rapidly changing swirl of conflictive employment issues. Some predict marginalization of this traditionally bedrock workforce as new developments unfold. The valuable resource of millions of lives and jobs should be protected and improved not trivialized and diminished. A careful look at the present, near and extended future reveals abundant problems and significant opportunities. The solution is for workers to own their employment, not necessarily the organization that employs them, but their work terms and prospects. Although employee ownership of a business is sometimes appropriate and freelancing is increasingly worthwhile, there should be renewed focus on salaried and hourly workers and their challenges. Both management and unions have failed many workers. It is time for a new approach. As a freelance writer with forty years of management experience, as well as labor credentials, I have vigorous new proposals to offer that combine practical suggestions with achievable goals. It is time to build the future.

#### **From Seed to Sale: Exploring Farm Workers’ Perspectives on Work Life and Wellbeing**

*Caroline A. Canarios, University of Mississippi*

Existing research on the social impacts of agrifood systems often focuses on macro-level farm structures rather than the micro-level analysis of individual experiences and perceptions. Farmers and farm workers are individuals who hold the key to success of any farm operation. Research that does focus on farm work does not adequately describe the complexities of today’s farm labor, and analyzes the farm workers and

farm owners under separate contexts. This research aims to address these problems and assumptions using the farm worker as the unit of analysis in an exploratory case study of produce farms in Southeast and Northwest Mississippi. The non-purposive sampling design of this study allows for wide variation among informants, and will reveal some intricacies of farm labor dynamics. This study involves participant observation and field interviews to understand farm workers' lives, identities, and well-being. Findings from the study are expected to contribute to the existing literature on the sociology of work as well as the creation of more sustainable and socially-just models of agrifood production.

#### Session 4

### **The Military and the Worth of Man: Shakespeare's Histories Set the Modern Ideological Stage**

*Lynne Schneider, Alabama State University*

21st-century Americans tend to take for granted that a powerful nation needs a national “standing army” in order to protect, promote, and defend “the homeland,” and to maintain international law and order. That very broad assumption and the military itself grew, ultimately, out of the economics of slavery and the concomitant, but implicit, need to control the domestic population in the name of national defense. This paper will look at the roots of these ideas in Shakespeare’s history cycle, Richard II – Henry V. These plays are much more than a look backward and/or a celebration of “Englishness” in the wake of overcoming external threats like the Armada. The cycle is also a critique of England’s future, in terms of its growing military needs, and the causes and the effects of those developments. For Shakespeare’s England, “external” threats meant not only physical invasion, such as a Spanish invasion, but also the growing fears of cultural and biological “miscegenation” that arose in the wake of expanding English “trade” – that is, armed English incursion into other countries, destabilization of foreign governments, arms-dealing, slavery, and even trading for spices, cloth, and precious metals. Shakespeare’s critique of the language, economics, and developing ideas about the identity and intrinsic worth of the individual resonate deeply in our views today of the military, of domestic policing, and of civil rights.

### **W. E. B. Du Bois's Study of Lowndes County Alabama and His Novel, Quest for the Silver Fleece: The Intersection of Sociology and Literature and How One Was Exchanged for the Other**

*Sandra Staton-Taiwo, Alabama State University*

Du Bois’ interest in the Black belt as fodder for argument extends theory into practice when he completed research on Lowndes County, Alabama, in the heart of the Black Belt. Du Bois attempted in a Department of Labor Black Studies project to do more than a narrative tour of the Black Belt. Du Bois connected with two different commissioners of labor, both of whom eventually dashed any hopes he had of securing financial support for the studies. First, Carroll Wright raised and then dashed his hopes, and then, when Wright retired, Commissioner of Labor Charles Neill extended support. Du Bois did complete the report, but, unlike his Philadelphia Negro study, the report was never published nor was it returned to Du Bois but it was allegedly destroyed. Some speculate that various political reasons led to the destruction of the document; for Booker T. Washington’s accommodating philosophy had gained power in ways difficult to contest. Du Bois’ militancy in *Souls of Black Folk* in refutation of Washington added fuel to fire, and, inevitably, an important labor study was quietly suppressed. Though scholars explore why the study was destroyed, this paper explores how the work of Du Bois was transformed from a sociological piece to a literary piece. This work was the basis of Du Bois’ first novel, *Quest for the Silver Fleece*.

### **The Un/Spoken Sacred and Profane**

*Christopher Pace, Jackson State University*

This study examines the role of language and silence in the rhetorical discourse exemplified in the dialogues by Black Americans, Christianity, and at Historically Black Colleges and Universities. This paper seeks to investigate the ways in which certain modes of sociological existence are sacred while others are profane (Durkheim 1995:34). Jackson State University and the African American community are examined as social entities fully capable of defining the inclusivity and the exclusivity of their community. Historically Black Colleges and Universities currently have unspoken rules that every attendant identifies as Christian (sacred/included), while anyone who aligns their beliefs outside of a Christo-centric purview is considered strange and “otherized” (profane/excluded), which disregards the metaphysical views of Africans before the Trans-Atlantic slave trade began. This ideological hegemony could be applied to many forms of systemic oppression. As African American scholarship advances in the post-modern dialectic, the conversation of Blackness and spirituality questions the unspoken notion that all African Americans must adhere to a churched lifestyle in order to be accepted into the cultural group. By examining the ideas of Claude Levi-Strauss on linguistics, Emile Durkheim on religion and rationality, and Karl Mannheim on rhetoric and ideology, the crossroads of linguistics, sociology, and anthropology reveal how language is structurally used to control information and define social reality.

Session 5

### **Citizen Participation in Rural Community Development Centers: An Example from Saudi Arabia**

*Salah Alsoghair, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia*

The major objectives of this study are: 1) to examine the effects of age, marital status, education, family income, family size, length of residence, distance from place of residence to the center of the city, cosmopolitanism, relationship with the center's workers, recognition, and powerlessness on citizens' adoption of, and participation in the various kinds of programs and activities of community development centers; 2) to examine the importance of citizens' participation in the community development process; and 3) to identify the best ways and techniques for including Saudi citizens' input in the community development process. A randomized sample of 350 household heads was selected from a population of 4,843 household heads served by the community development center. The findings revealed that receiving recognition was the most important predictor of level of participation, followed by cosmopolitanism, marital status, feelings of powerlessness, and distance from place of residence to the center of the city. The effects of these variables were observed to be statistically significant and directionally consistent with the stated research hypotheses. The effect of length of residence was statistically significant but not consistent directionally with the stated research hypotheses. Relationships with the center's workers and education of the respondents had a weak but statistically significant effect on level of participation. The effects of age, family income, and family size were very small and not statistically significant. The findings also identified advisory committees as the most appropriate method for including Saudi citizens' input in the community development process.

### **Revisiting Jamaica: Exploring Socializing the Jamaican Way**

*Uriel Rose, Alabama State University*

*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*

In this research we aim to underscore the uniqueness of Caribbean region and its people's socialization. Enlightened socialization is imperative to build a better community. On the other hand, lack of healthier socialization has a number of negative consequences on society and social issues. This research outlines a place of better socialization and its impact on society. There is no disputing the fact that the Caribbean

island of Jamaica is indeed very popular and might be on the bucket list of quite a few people. Jamaica promotes socialization in every aspect. What makes Jamaica such a wonderful place is the history, location, and the culture of this great nation. The island of Jamaica caters for the needs of every person. Jamaica has talented sports men and women and most importantly, it is the island of home of the fastest and second fastest men alive. Many love socializing with the Jamaicans as Jamaicans have some of the best social gathering and world renowned Reggae Music. Even on a cultural aspect, we have the Bob Marley museum, elegant white sand beaches, great food, dexterous crafts, and the best ground fruits especially Jelly Coconut. Jamaica is also famous for spiritual healing with our herbs and medicine and not to mention our hot springs. The motto of Jamaican is “out of many one people” therefore we don’t differentiate or judge instead we love having visitors and socializing and meeting people to make a better place.

### **Finding Middle Grounds: Australian Children, Racial Identities and Public Policy**

*Laura Burmeister, Troy University*

In spite of the achievements of globally prevalent Civil Rights movements throughout the 1960s and 70s, the governments of former settler societies have demonstrated a seemingly persistent need to seek out racialized “Others” (Said, 1978) in crafting hegemonic national narratives that depict Anglo-European (ex)-colonizers as heroic in their management of problematic racial minorities who need moral guidance. (Stoler, 2002). Much like the United States, various movements have demanded Civil Rights and equal citizenship for the Aboriginal peoples of Australia (popularly termed “blackfellas”) which gained momentum during this era. However, despite huge gains made in both countries during this time, States have continued to blame socio-economic inequalities between racial groups on either biological or cultural defects on the part of the radicalized “Other”. This paper argues that policy and practice in both countries should more closely reflect the respectful friendship which developed between a 12-year-old Bush Black fella (read-“ traditional”) and a stereotypical Anglo-Australian student over the course of 20 months of field research in the Northern Territory of Australia. This researcher draws from extensive ethnographic observations of their reflexive and respectful interactions (despite their many cultural differences) in demonstrating not only the importance of finding cultural similarities amongst differences in actuating structural change, but also in an attempt to provide hope that historically racialized “Others” will soon truly be fully represented and embraced by the global community.

Session 11

Session 6

### **What Happens in College Stays in College: A Snapshot of Hazing Explanations**

*Jacqueline Chavez, Troy University*

*Jeff Lee, Troy University*

*Donna Oliver, Troy University*

Hazing has been a tradition on college campuses for decades as part of the initiation and acceptance process into athletics. Researchers often find it difficult to agree on a single definition of hazing. Nonetheless, hazing is generally thought of as any activity that inflicts or intends to cause physical or mental harm by demeaning or degrading the participant. Although the exact number of hazing incidents is unknown, previous research has found that hazing is prevalent across college campuses. Furthermore, hazing has gained considerable attention in recent years as serious hazing incidents involving physical abuse, injuries, and death have come to light. Given the potential seriousness of hazing, researchers have called for campuses to implement hazing policies while simultaneously focusing on prevention through education and training. Understanding the explanations for sports hazing is a crucial step in attempting to combat the potential harmful ramifications of hazing. A content analysis of news articles was performed in order to investigate the representation of hazing explanations in college athletics. Specifically, this



project provides a snapshot of three themes that emerged in the coverage of sports hazing: power, acceptance, and exploitation. Findings and future directions are explored in order to better understand the causes of sports hazing.

### **Students' Perceptions of University Dress Code: The Influence of Gender, Age, Classification and Major**

*Elisa Dung, Alabama State University*

A definition of “Dress Code Compliance” must include the perception and attitudes of students. Dress codes have become an important issue in social, business and legal discourse. Generally, employers have some degree of expectation about how their employees dress for work, and in many instances the employees comply with these expectations. In universities however, the issue has had mixed reactions. Dress code compliance has been challenged in courts as an important First Amendment issue, with mixed results. This has not deterred school administrations from drawing up policies and demanding that students comply with some measure of the dress codes. In most cases, however, little is known about what and how the students themselves perceive, understand and receive these codes as part of their expected conduct in schools. This paper uses students’ gender, classifications, age, and major to measure the perception of 192 students from a Southern HBCU university. It assesses their knowledge of the university’s dress code policy and how much compliance to the code they are willing to adopt. This may be important in how the code can be enforced by the authorized agency, and if there are needs for any structural adjustments that may encourage compliance without highhanded enforcement.

### **Everyone's Doing It: Undergraduate Substance Use and Subjective Well-Being**

*Randall Brent Lee, University of West Alabama*

Research within Sociology has long considered the relationship between substance use and social well-being. This body of literature largely focuses on the negative relationship between substance use and objective measures of well-being. A small but growing body of literature has started to investigate the impact of substance use on subjective well-being. Findings from these studies show a mixed set of results, suggesting the context of substance use plays an important role in moderating the relationship between consumption patterns and happiness. In social settings like college campuses where substance use is often viewed as a normative activity, consumption is potentially linked to increased subjective well-being. This study adds to this body of literature by examining the relationship between three measures of substance use and happiness among a sample of undergraduate college students. Specifically this study uses linear regression analysis to test the association between levels of alcohol use, binge drinking, and marijuana use and a subjective happiness scale.

Session 7

### **Social Media and Happiness: So many, So much, So What?**

*Amanda Ferguson, University of West Alabama*

There is a long tradition of sociological research examining the media and its impact on social life. Generally this literature suggests that increased exposure to mass media, such as television, advertisements, and the internet is associated with a decrease in levels of happiness. Today ‘the social’ is increasingly framed and shaped through social media. Social media constructs our concepts of identity and social relationships, which are both relevant to sociological inquiry. Only recently has social media and happiness been the subject of empirical analysis. Studies suggest increased social media use is associated with lower levels of subjective well-being. Empirically, how substantial or pervasive this negative relationship is remains unclear. The recency of social media adoption and its unique interactive characteristics also suggest a need to theoretically evaluate the basic causal mechanisms which link social

media use to subjective well-being. To addressing this gap in the literature, this study tests the relative impact of three specific measures of social media usage on a subjective well-being happiness scale. Multiple regression analysis was used to analyze data collected from undergraduate students in a southern, rural, mixed race, university setting.

### **I Don't Care if Anybody Gets it: "I'm Going as the Doppler Effect!" or Autism, Television and the Masquerade**

*Summer O'Neal, Alabama State University*

Costumes have a practical use and a symbolic interpretation so to understand costumes fully one must consider both functions. The practical uses of costumes in popular culture's interpretations of autism are unexpected. Costumes appear to be the most ubiquitous symbols when considering autistic characters in popular culture, but they also can be seen as metaphors that advance an autistic identity. This paper will focus on two symbolic interpretations of costuming in regard to characters in television that are possibly on the autism spectrum, specifically on the shows *The Big Bang Theory* and *Rizzoli & Isles*. The first interpretation will be called the "maskless masquerade," which reveals, rather than conceals, autistic characteristics. However, in the second interpretation disguises are meant to conceal. These examples suggest that neurotypicals have their own sartorial code, and if autistic people want to associate successfully with neurotypicals, autistic people must learn the code or risk embarrassing exposure, but in so doing they lose their identities.

### **Reframing the Comic Frame of Hurricane Katrina: Frame Analysis and the Rhetoric of Aaron McGruder's *Boondocks*.**

*Carlos D. Morrison, Alabama State University*

There has been a great deal of writing in both the popular media and scholarly field concerning *The Boondocks* comic strip created by cartoonists, Aaron McGruder. In the field of communication, scholars have focused on analyzing African American audience responses (Cornwell & Orbe, 2002) as well as in critically examining issues of race and gender in the comic strip (Howard, 2013). Some communication critics have even rhetorically analyzed McGruder's graphic novel, *Birth of a Nation* as an extension of his *Boondocks*' work (Morrison & Jackson II, 2013). However, there has been no analysis of the cartoon strip that examines the way in which McGruder, through his *Boondock* characters, i.e., Huey and Riley Freeman, Granddad, etc. frames his socio-political arguments, which one may argue, have rhetorical power. This essay will analyze arguments from McGruder's "Hurricane Katrina Series" by applying a frame analysis (Erving Goffman's sociologically theory of Framing) from a rhetorical communicative perspective (Jim Kuypers' rhetorical approach concerning Framing) in an effort to show how the framing of arguments, via framing alignment, symbolically induce cooperation, i.e. persuasion.

Session 8

### **Marching for Freedom: The Marginalization of East German Dissidents in the Unification Narrative**

*Elizabeth Peifer, Alabama State University*

In 1988 and 1989 people throughout communist Eastern Europe took to the streets to demand greater democratic freedom. These demonstrations forced political change and brought an end to communist regimes in Europe. In the German Democratic Republic (GDR) the political pressure wrought by regular Monday marches in Leipzig, Dresden, Berlin and elsewhere eventually led to the opening of the Berlin

Wall, and ultimately to German re-unification. Yet, as the twenty-fifth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall passed this recently, there was a noticeable lack of emphasis on the pro-democracy movement of the former GDR. The euphoria of unification faded quickly and early in the development of the public narrative of 1989, there were signs of western co-optation. Western media and western political parties proved far more capable in taking the lead and shaping the story of unification. Within a few years, the names of the East German activist parties were forgotten and within a few decades many East German dissidents had been discredited. It would seem that the only remaining positive contributions of the former GDR are the children's program, "Sendung mit der Maus" and their beloved "Ampelmaenner" (pedestrian crossing signals). This paper will approach the changing narrative of the fall of the Berlin Wall from the perspective of historical sociology. The presenter will examine public discourse in newspapers, television, and textbooks in order to trace how German historical narratives increasingly marginalize the former GDR, and support the West German political agenda.

### **The Colourism Complex**

*Kavon Franklin, Alabama State University*

This research paper examines the prevalence of colorism among African Americans. Colorism, or "shadeism," is the notion that a particular skin hue is better than another one. More to the point, it is most often used to express the belief that a light-skinned person is "better" than a dark-skinned one (or thought to be "better"). Colorism is not new and does not seem to be dissipating any time soon. Examples of it can be found throughout the media (both mainstream media outlets and social media sites) yet, there are many people who have never heard the words *colorism* or *shadeism*. This work examines this issue that is ever-present, but rarely discussed in an in-depth manner. This presentation will look to the past and address the light-skinned and biracial leaders of the late nineteenth century and the early part of the twentieth century, and it will examine the present-day perception of what a successful black person looks and sounds like and how those notions are still tied to skin color.

### **In Black and White: Interracial Focus Groups Reflect on Race Relations**

*Jeneve Brooks, Troy University*

*Samantha Earnest, Troy University*

*Brandon Warden, Troy University*

*Andnya Watford, Troy University*

*T. Lee Williams, Troy University*

*Troy University, Troy University*

This paper reports on the preliminary results of interracial focus groups that followed a community panel discussion on race relations at Troy University in Dothan, AL. The panel was a featured event for Black History Month and provided a forum for both White and Black community leaders as well as law enforcement officials to comment on the state of race relations nationally as well as locally. In light of the AMSA conference's 2015 theme, the research paper presented here specially addresses how to continue the struggle for civil rights in the United States and improve race relations going forward. This study is particularly needed given the lack of qualitative research on race relations and the recent racial unrest that was sparked by the high profile murder cases of the African American men, Trayvon Martin, Michael Brown, and Eric Gardner and the gunning down of two New York City police officers. Besides offering a space for both Blacks and Whites to tell their own stories about race and racism, these groups encouraged participants to reflect on how they could individually take steps to bridge the racial divide. To contextualize this study, the paper reflects on the contributions of contact theory, colorblind racism, and critical race theory.

**It's Complicated: An Analysis of Romantic Relationship Status and Happiness**

*Kathryn Adams, University of West Alabama*

The study of marriage and interpersonal relationships is a central feature of sociological inquiry. One area of this research examines the relationship between marital status and subjective well-being. This body of literature provides a variety of theoretical and empirical explanations why married individuals tend to be happier than singles. Focused primarily on marital status, much of this work has neglected the diversity of other romantic relationship statuses. Recent shifts in age of first marriage, cohabitation, divorce, and an increased awareness of non-heterosexual partnering all suggest a need to extend happiness research beyond the married-single dichotomy. This study begins to address this gap in the literature by examining the relationship between subjective well-being and a continuum of romantic involvement. Using linear regression analysis, this study specifically tests the statistical association between an ordinal measure of interpersonal relationship status and a subjective happiness scale. Survey data for this study were collected from undergraduate college students in a southern, rural, mixed-race, university setting.

**Youth Soccer as a Vehicle for Social Change: Case Studies from Abroad, Around the Country, and in Our Hometown**

*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*

*Ernest Rockwell, Alabama State University*

In this research paper, we will underscore the role that youth soccer programs play in addressing the challenges facing communities, juveniles, and families and focus on the relationships among players, parents, and coaches. Soccer is not merely a sport nor is it simply entertainment. Rather, it is a social vehicle that bridges many perspectives and addresses many needs within communities such as providing for the development of leadership, teamwork, respect, tolerance, goal orientation, positive risk taking, and perseverance. Over the past 2 ½ years, we have served as coaches for the youth soccer league in Prattville, Alabama. In that time, we have helped to foster an environment that provides players and parents with the opportunity to bridge the many barriers that often divide communities by offering them instead insight into diverse perspectives, opportunities for co-curricular learning, and opportunities to interact with professors whose aim is to train them as citizens and athletes. This may be the first time that two coaches with PhDs have teamed together to coach youth soccer at the city level and to initiate some constructive dialogue for better results. This merging of higher-level academic involvement with youth soccer has provided an extremely positive experience for players, parents, and coaches. We will outline the potential and challenges for such endeavors in the future and explain why we believe soccer offers a distinctly advantageous platform for doing so.

**The Transmission of Cultural Values through Professional Wrestling: A Cross-Cultural Comparison**

*Tyson L. Platt Alabama State University*

The vocation of professional wrestling is practiced in various forms throughout the world. Evolving from competitive grappling, modern professional wrestling is a form of exhibition in which outcomes and other aspects of matches are predetermined. The present study investigates the cultural significance of professional wrestling across two cultures: American and Japanese. American professional wrestling evolved from carnivals in which designated grapplers fought locals for entertainment. As betting on events became more lucrative than ticket sales to view the event, an incentive to arrange finishes emerged

and the practice became widespread in the late 19th century. Japanese professional wrestling (puroresu) appeared after World War II and was strongly influenced by American wrestling, professional sumo and martial arts. Across cultures, professional wrestling is a form of combat-based entertainment in which two or more participants attempt to tell a culturally-relevant story to audiences via wrestling holds, body language and matched structure. The narratives conveyed by American and Japanese professional wrestling matches are fundamentally different and reflect both cultural values and the historical development of the craft. Whereas American professional wrestling has traditionally entailed a good-versus-evil narrative, peroneus emphasizes determination, perseverance and integrity as its central narrative. These differences in narrative reflect culturally-relevant beliefs about morality, hard work and justice. The present paper addresses the cultural values being displayed in professional wrestling and their evolution in the 20th century.

Session 10

### **The Socio-demographic Analysis of the Older Population in Alabama**

*Yanyi Djamba, Auburn University-Montgomery*

One important demographic change in Alabama in the last few decades has been the sharp increase in the state's older population. This paper will describe the socio-demographic profile of Alabama's older population, with a focus on persons age 65 and older. Using various census data, the paper will examine the historical changes in the size and composition of the senior population during the period of 1960-2010 and the demographic projections of the state's older population in the next 30 years. The results show that, for the first time, the population aged 65 years and older represented 14 percent of the state population in 2010. This figure is expected to increase even more now that the baby boom generation, persons born between 1946 and 1964, begin to reach age 65. By 2040, about 1-in-5 people in Alabama will be 65+ years old. The paper will conclude with a discussion of challenges and opportunities associated with such demographic changes.

### **Discrimination of the Elderly**

*Simon Luetze, Shelton State Community College*

This paper uses information from four different research articles that focus on the discrimination of the elderly in society and examines issues from a sociological point of view. Ageism is defined including stereotypes and discrimination against older people. Important aspects of ageism are its connection to Sociology, the causes and forms of ageism, and measures taken against it. The micro sociological perspective is best used to explain ageism, because it focuses on stereotypes in everyday life. According to Calasanti (2005), a major cause of ageism is the prejudices towards older people, for example the common belief that old age is directly linked to bad health. McGuire et al. (2008) found that one of the most common forms of ageism is the ridiculing of old people. The research suggests that the best way to stop ageism is through surveys and studies that make our society aware of the issue (McGuire et al., 2008). This paper uses the evidence found in four sources to provide an overview of ageism and to suggest methods to combat it.

### **Factors Associated with Belief in Conspiracies about HIV/AIDS Among HIV-Positive African Americans**

*Andrew Zekeri, Tuskegee University*

The purpose of this study is to examine factors associated with belief in conspiracies about HIV/AIDS among HIV-Positive African-Americans patients in the southeastern United States. Survey data were

collected from 256 African-American patients living with HIV/AIDS attending two HIV clinics in Montgomery and Dothan, Alabama. The study used multiple regression analysis to examine how sociodemographic factors contribute to belief in conspiracies about HIV/AIDS. Education and age were significantly related to belief in conspiracies about HIV/AIDS among men and women. Beliefs in conspiracies about HIV/AIDS may be a barrier to HIV prevention among African-Americans. Public health officials should work towards obtaining the trust of African-Americans by addressing the existing discrimination within the health care system and acknowledging the existence of HIV/AIDS conspiracy beliefs. Conspiracies about HIV/AIDS may be a manifestation of African Americans' mistrust of the U.S. government and the health system.

## Session 11

### **The Effects of Parental Support on Academic Success among DSU College Students**

*Destiny Keys, Delta State University*

*Yolanda Lester, Delta State University*

*Hannah Williams, Delta State University*

Various past studies have shown the effects of parental involvement and support on student success in primary and secondary schooling. However, student performance goes far beyond one's elementary and high school careers. Although college students have transitioned into a state of young adulthood that necessitates more personal responsibility and self-sufficiency in their academics, the understanding of the parental/guardianship roles is still vital in this transition. The purpose of this study is to assess how various forms of parental support influence several parameters that contribute to University student success such as: academic achievement; the level of self-confidence in one's social and academic life; social adjustment in a university environment; college retention; and the persistence to graduate. This research paper combines both descriptive and relational evaluation techniques to describe and define parental support, to explain parameters of success, and to study the relationship between parental support and student achievement. This study was conducted using the quantitative research method of purposive sampling in which the researchers strategically selected samples based on their knowledge of the University's student body demographics. In an interview-style setting, questionnaires were distributed among a sampling size of 80 students who attend Delta State University. The expectation of this study is to find a direct correlation between parental support and student academic success. The data collected from this study should reveal how several elements of parental/guardianship support contributes to a college student's overall educational needs.

### **A-MSA/A-KEEP: A-KEEP, or the Alabama-Korea Education and Economic Partnership**

*Alan Kouns, A-MSA/A-KEEP*

A-KEEP, or the Alabama-Korea Education and Economic Partnership are a non-profit organization that works toward educational and economic opportunities between the State of Alabama and the Republic of Korea. We are committed to diversity in education and expanding the horizons of young students throughout rural Alabama and South Korea. For this year's Annual Meeting we will be presenting some of A-KEEP's continuing objectives here in the Alabama region and abroad, particularly as they relate to this year's theme. One of A-KEEP's keystone programs is our reciprocal program between South Korea and Alabama, which is entitled the "Global Youth Leadership Training Program." One of our primary objectives with this program is to expand the horizons of Alabama youth, giving a global perspective to underrepresented rural Alabama high school students by traveling to South Korea, and an actual immersion experience with Korean high school students and their educational environment. We are committed to the expansion and continuation of this program, as well its second aspect, where we invite South Korean students from the rural Gyeongsangnam province of South Korea to come to Alabama in order to experience real American culture in this beautiful area. Furthermore, through programs such as

the Two Lines exhibit, which expounds on the repercussions of the Korean War and its parallel in a divided Germany, which is displayed in the Rosa Parks museum at Troy University, A-KEEP demonstrates its devotion to diversity and social awareness in our role as a bridge between Alabama and Korea.

### **Addressing Barriers to Math Achievement: Examining the Multifaceted Concept of Math Anxiety among Boys and Girls**

*Willette Brye, University of South Alabama*

The United States falls behind other nations in math proficiency. For example, out of the forty countries included in the 2003 Program for International Student Assessment or PISA, U.S. 15 year olds ranked 28th in math literacy. Furthermore, the National Science Foundation reported that the U.S. ranks 20th in the proportion of 24 year olds who complete a program leading to a degree in natural science or engineering (CRS report). Eliminating barriers to proficiency in science and mathematics is necessary in order to produce an educated citizenry, to prepare individuals to compete in an increasing global and technologically advanced society, and to position the United States to return to its position of prominence in scientific innovation. Differences in student mathematics performance might be explained by: poor teacher preparation, faulty curriculum, student motivation, socioeconomic status, parent level of education, and cultural norms, among other factors. Math anxiety has been identified as an explanatory variable in understanding math achievement. Furthermore, math anxiety has been found to be a predictor of poor math performance among students. Scales have been developed and used to measure math anxiety among both students and teachers and the effect of math anxiety on math achievement has been examined (Beilock, Gunderson, Ramirez, & Levine, 2010; Ramirez, Gunderson, Levine, & Beilock, 2013; Bai, 2011). This review will discuss five articles which address math anxiety. Implications from the articles will be discussed as well as possible interventions and potential areas of further research.

## Session 12

### **Local Food Systems and Development**

*Jillian L Cowart, University of Mississippi*

Local food systems can be used to promote more equitable and sustainable development in communities internationally, but farmers often face challenges in promoting the systems in which they participate. Through this comparative study of Sokone, Senegal and Cleveland, Mississippi, farmers were interviewed to determine how they are succeeding or facing challenges in regard to this area of development. In addition to observations of the two community farmers markets, intensive interviews were conducted with ten farmers in Sokone and nine farmers in Cleveland. Qualitative data were analyzed according to the similarities and differences within and between the two locations, and three themes emerged. By analyzing the farmers' perceptions of land ownership, food security, and government interaction, this study addresses the successes of and challenges faced by farmers in each community's food system. Farmers seem to have more food sovereignty in Sokone with greater access to land and more value is placed on land for cultivation. While in Cleveland the perception is of a more food secure community, the interviews reveal that this food security is not locally based, as opposed to local solutions to food insecurity which was proposed by farmers in Sokone. In regard to government interaction, Sokone farmers noted the need to better utilize existing policies while Cleveland farmers expressed the need for policy changes. This comparative study discusses the potential development policy implications resulting from these findings which could result in the improvement of strategies for developing local food systems.

### **The Future of Our Nation, and Ultimately Our World**



*Brandon Price-Crum, Alabama State University*

The future of our nation, and ultimately our world is in one way or another dependent on how we as humans strategically use the resources of the earth. Many colleges and universities have taken upon themselves to host different sustainability campaigns, projects, and practices. This research paper aims to discover whether the objectives of Historically Black Colleges and Universities are promoting sustainability initiatives and practices for the student body through their Student Government Associations. The population for this study will be students enrolled at Historically Black Colleges and Universities who are student government association officials. The sample will consist of four of the members of the student government at each school. The four members will be comprised of the president, vice-president, and two senate members. The sample size will be 460, because there are 105 HBCUs, and four participants will be selected from each college/university to take part in a survey. The mail-in survey method will be used to conduct this study.

### **Sex and Religion: Explorations of University Students' Sexual Activities and Religious Beliefs**

*Gabrielle Herman, University of Mississippi*

There have been several recent studies concerning dating and sexual activity among college students. There appears to be a general consensus that college students increasingly “hook up” rather than date. My research stems from this discussion, with a particular focus on the role of religious affiliation. Is religious affiliation a determining factor in students' decisions whether to have sexual intercourse? I propose that a student's affiliated religion or religious beliefs do not factor in their decision to have sexual intercourse, but rather their religious beliefs play an important role in their emotional state after the act. I surveyed 108 students at a statewide university in the American South. The sample was majority freshmen, but ranged across undergraduate levels and majors. This sample came from three introductory level classes of Sociology and Religion. Overall, data analysis supported my hypothesis. A surprising one-third of respondents reported not sexually active, and of the 108, all but a few of them were affiliated with various branches of Christianity. The respondents that did not associate themselves with Christianity considered themselves Atheist or Agnostic. The two-thirds of respondents that were sexually active and affiliated with a religion showed that in general their religious affiliation was not a factor in their decision to have sexual intercourse, but rather an after-thought that the act of sexual intercourse made them consider their religion or religious beliefs. I conclude that my hypothesis was supported, but a larger sample and data from other universities are needed to confirm these findings.

Session 13

### **Revisiting the Concept of Criminal Rehabilitation**

*Xiaoli Su, Troy University (main campus)*

Criminal rehabilitation has long been dismissed as a failure by the criminal justice system. This reflects the lost faith of criminologists and the public in many rehabilitation programs. “Nothing works” becomes a slogan of Corrections. In reviewing the literature, the author argues that “nothing works” is a premature conclusion. There is a logical mistake in asserting failure of criminal rehabilitation based on the ineffectiveness of rehabilitation programs. Inconsistency between program implementation and the concept of criminal rehabilitation may contribute to the failure of rehabilitation programs. The author argues that the key to criminal rehabilitation is unconditional love/acceptance of criminals by others such as parents, romantic partners, teachers, correctional officers, employers, and social workers (Sampson and

Laub, 1993; Laub and Sampson, 2003; Braithwaite, 1989; Tannenbaum, 1938). Unconditional love/acceptance given to criminals enables them build strong social bonds and to desist from crime. However, none of the rehabilitation programs have enough human resources to actually provide this key element of rehabilitation. Moreover, society and major social institutes such as families, schools, and employers, in general, lack the ability to extend unconditional love/acceptance to those who made bad decisions or took a wrong turn in their life. The author calls for a rekindled passion for criminal rehabilitation and more society-level efforts in building a more tolerant and caring social environment for the lost ones, where they can derail their criminal past and lead a new life.

### **Reducing Research Anxiety in Undergraduate Students: The Effects of Information Literacy Training on Library Anxiety**

*Jessica E. Platt, Alabama State University*  
*Tyson L. Platt, Alabama State University*

The undergraduate research experience has become an increasingly important factor in employment and graduate school placement. However, many undergraduates express fear or anxiety of the research process. One component of research anxiety is the use of library resources for acquisition of information. The purpose of the present study was to determine the extent to which anxiety about accessing library resources can be mediated by brief, organized training on accessing library resources. Fifty-seven undergraduate students who enrolled in a Research Methods in Psychology class were given an information literacy pre-test prior to information literacy sessions and an information literacy post-test following two sessions. Additionally, the researchers administered a revised version of the Multidimensional Library Anxiety Scale created by D. J. Van Kampen-Breit, which was designed to assess individuals' perceptions of academic libraries and the information search process. Data analysis suggests a significant decrease in students' anxiety levels following information literacy training sessions. Implications for librarians, instructors and students will be discussed

### **Using the Slave Narratives to Answer the Epistemological Question: What Role Do the Slave Narratives Play in Assisting HBCU Students in Developing Literary-based Truth Claims?**

*Robert White, Alabama State University*  
*Ram Alagan, Alabama State University*

The African American literary tradition began when the slave ships entered into the western hemisphere. While recent movie productions like *Django* and *12 Years a Slave* have done much to bring attention to slavery as a historic reality, there remains a need for college students to explore the literary accounts of the slaves themselves for the purpose of building a literary-based world view. Montgomery, Alabama celebrates two major Civil Rights events in 2015: 1) The Selma to Montgomery March and 2) The Bus Boycott. Both events underline African Americans history, the struggle for freedom, and equal rights. The major epistemological question still remains which focuses on how we know our history, what do we know, why do we know it, and is what we know the truth? In this presentation, we will evaluate the slave narratives as an empirical source of knowledge for the purpose of building truth claims upon which a practical worldview can be established to help students better appreciate the learning environment.

Session 14

### **Forgotten Voices from the Selma to Montgomery Marches**

*Delilah Dotremon, Alabama State University*  
*Elisha Dung, Alabama State University*  
*Ruben Gonzalez, Alabama State University*

This presentation highlights little known marchers who participated in the historic Selma to Montgomery Civil Rights event and it also highlights the voices of ordinary bystanders who watched from the sidelines as the marchers passed them by. This presentation is the product of historical research which seeks to acquaint the audience with the voices of ordinary people who witnessed and participated in history. This is an effort to provide another viewpoint of this time-frame. Fifty years later, the voice of Mrs. Mary Jane Jackson still resounds across time. As the marchers walked pass the Mount Gillard Baptist Church, a woman ran out from the watching crowd and she hugged and kissed one of the marchers. Mrs. Mary Jane Jackson loudly proclaimed to the crowd, "I done kissed him! I done kissed the Martin Luther King!" It is the voices of the forgotten and in some cases the nameless that this presentation highlights.

### **Dr. M.L. King's Beloved Community Ideals Based on Good Character**

*Mary Anne Martin, One Montgomery*

Dr. King developed and promoted beloved community concepts. He stressed the importance of good character in order to extend civil rights to all Americans and millions around the world. The Children's Defense Fund's founder, Marian Edelman of Mississippi, warned from Dr. King's pulpit in Montgomery that our nation will not stand with a weak foundation caused by so many young African-Americans being incarcerated. We should take Ms. Edelman's warning seriously and start the dialogue on how to focus on Dr. King's character promotion by adjusting strategies already tested in officially declared "communities of character" and America's Promise communities. Information will be shared about character-oriented community programs in Tuscaloosa, Prattville, Huntsville, Opelika, Sylacauga and other communities in which stakeholders implement actions that address social challenges.

Professionals attending this session would answer the appeals of Mrs. Powell and other concerned leaders by developing strategies using Dr. King's character ideals again. This presentation will stress the need to use Dr. King's ideas today.

### **An Outsider's View of the Journey Still Ahead for Montgomery, Alabama**

*Bonnie Mitchell, Troy University*

This presentation focuses on the cultural shock experienced by a new arrival to Montgomery, Alabama. Having a doctoral area of specialization in race/ethnic relations from the University of Texas at Austin, teaching Sociology for more than 20 years, and being a world traveler does not mean that one is immune to cultural shock in the southern United States. In learning about the local culture and about race/ethnic relations in this city, the presenter made detailed notes of experiences and of some very informative conversations with both native Alabamians and long-term residents of Montgomery. The presenter shares her preliminary observations, experiences, and perspectives regarding racial and economic inequality from someone "not from here," as some might say.

Session 15

### **Obesity and the Risk-Behavior-Environment Nexus: Exploration of Factors Associated with Obesity among Children and Adults in Mississippi**

*John Green, University of Mississippi Center for Population Studies*

*Ben Walker, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center*

*John McCown, Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center*

Research concerning people being overweight or obese is generally focused on one of three domains. The epidemiological literature notes the existence of age, race/ethnicity, sex, and socioeconomic differences in obesity. These are often considered risk factors to watch for among practitioners. The behavioral health literature demonstrates that obesity is influenced by eating choices, as well as exercise. These are the primary areas for clinical or individual-level interventions. Place-based researchers hypothesize that, in addition to these factors, the environment makes a difference. Examples include access to grocery outlets and whether a person lives in a rural area. There is a strong body of literature – drawing from studies concerning food deserts, ecological public health, and spatial health disparities – to support this argument. Informed by literature across these domains, the risk, behavior, and environment hypotheses are tested in this study using data from a 2012 survey of parents about their health and the health of their children. Drawing on approximately 10,000 cases, logistic regression analysis is used to model factors associated with obesity. Preliminary findings demonstrate the importance of all three domains, and discussion focuses on the importance of better understanding the ways in which place may influence health outcomes.

### **Dining with the Homeless**

*Gita M. Smith, Alabama State University*

This is a presentation about a free "soup kitchen" and the homeless people who go there to eat. The presenter is the nutrition counselor/cook who works there. The project follows several homeless "diners" to explore themes like mental illness, alcoholism, loneliness and trust between the haves and have-nots. The last count of homeless people in Montgomery in 2013 was found to be more than 900. As we go into this conference, a new count is being attempted. In Alabama, as a whole, an estimated 100,000 homeless children are enrolled in pre-K and Kindergarten. There, they get some free meals but what about their mothers? Dining with the homeless uses the medium of fiction to explore actual people and social interactions. The hunger is real, only the names have been changed.

### **Running Head: Bullying and its Effects on the Victim**

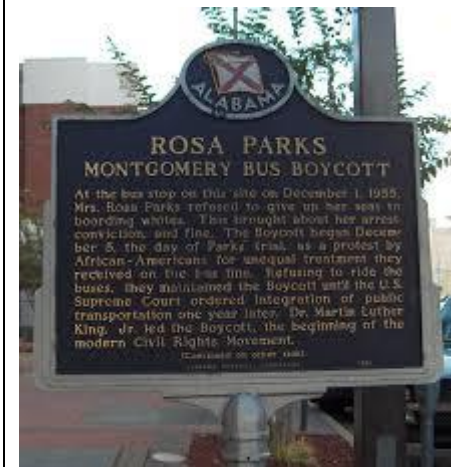
*Janiece Austin, Hinds Community College*

Bullying has become a major problem that needs to be addressed. Bullying is described as “a common form of victimization on American School campuses and an important school safety problem.” (Schoen and Schoen, 2010). In order to halt bullying we must take a united stand among teachers, students, and administrators. This paper will explore bullying in schools, the reasons that students bully other students, and the effects on the victims being bullied.

## A-MSA Award Recipients

2014	Steve Grice	Outstanding Achievement
2013	John Green	Distinguished Service
2013	Dennis L. Peck	Outstanding Achievement
2011	Albert B Nylander III	Distinguished Service
2007	Larry Hall	Distinguished Service
2007	Vaughn L. Grisham	Outstanding Achievement
2006	Ming Tsui	Distinguished Service
2005	Donald Bogie	Distinguished Service
2002	Mary Kuhn	Distinguished Service
2000	Danny Harrison	Distinguished Service
2000	Billy Lindsey	Distinguished Service
1998	Roy Brigance	Distinguished Service
1997	John Saunders	Distinguished Service
1996	Columbus Hopper	Distinguished Service
1994	John Dunkelberger	Distinguished Service
1994	Arthur Cosby	Outstanding Achievement
1992	Selwyn Hollingsworth	Distinguished Service
1991	Donald South	Outstanding Achievement
1998	Abdul-Hadi	Distinguished Service
1987	Harry Dickinson	Tribute
1986	Wilbur Carpenter	Tribute
1985	Harold Kaufman	Tribute
1984	Ernst Borinski	Memorial Tribute

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