

Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association Fall 2001 NEWSLETTER Cleveland, MS

Meeting of the AL-MS Sociological Association

The 33rd Meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association will be held on Thursday and Friday, February 21 and 22 at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi. The meetings will be held on the second floor of the Union. The Union is conveniently located in the center of campus.



The theme of the 2002 annual meeting is "Social Inequality." Registration will begin at 11:00 a.m. followed by the keynote address at 1:00 p.m. in the Bologna Performing Arts Center. Breakout

sessions are scheduled for 2:00-3:15 and from 3:30-4:45. The traditional Thursday night meal will be held at a local restaurant.

Friday's agenda includes the general business meeting at 8:30-9:15, followed by two breakout sessions lasting till 11:45 a.m. The meeting will conclude by noon.

An Exciting Program is Planned for The 2002 February Meeting

The Theme for this years meeting is "Social Inequality." Three speakers will be addressing our meeting. Betty Dobratz has been invited to give the Keynote address. The Plenary speaker will be Rob Brown. The last speaker of the meeting will be Mark Potok, who will give the capstone address.

Speaker Spotlights

Dr. Betty Dobratz will present her Keynote address,



Thursday afternoon. Dr. Dobratz's research interests include political sociology, social organization, and social stratification (gender, class, and race/ethnicity). In political sociology

she is particularly interested in what factors influence voting behavior, social movements, and who wields power in society. She received a NATO Postdoctoral Fellowship to study Greek politics and is co-author of *A Profile of Modern Greece: In Search of Identity*.

Dr. Dobratz is currently examining the contemporary white separatist movement, including interviewing some of its leaders and attending rallies. She is co-author of "White Power, White Pride! The White Separatist Movement in the United States" and is working on the meanings of whiteness and the relationships between race and religion in the movement.

Dr. Rob Brown, Assistant Professor of Geography will



serve as the Plenary speaker for our Thursday night blues session. Rob completed his Ph.D. in geography (2001) from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. This work focused on African American

return migration to the Yazoo-Mississippi Delta. The project blended his interests in race, regionalism, poverty, cultural identity, humanistic geography, and regional development.

Dr. Brown taught for ten years at Delta State University where he developed his long-standing interest and love for the Delta and Delta Blues music.

The final session of our meeting will feature **Mark Potok** who is the Director of Publications and Information for the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project. Mr. Potok is the editor of the Intelligence Report, the Center's quarterly publication. This magazine is sent to more than 50,000 law enforcement personnel nationwide and tracks the development of hate groups nationwide. Potok, came to the Center with almost 20 years' experience as an award winning journalist at major newspapers.



He has traveled the country covering the modern Patriot movement. He wrote at length about such events as the 51 day siege of Mt. Carmel in Waco, TX, the Oklahoma City bombing, and the trial of Timothy McVeigh. Potok also has covered racial issues in depth. While employed at USA Today, his editors nominated his reporting on racial conflict in East Texas public housing for a Pulitzer Prize. Born in Paris, France, and raised in Vermont, Potok graduated with honors from the University of Chicago, where he earned a political science degree. In his current position as Editor of the Center's Intelligence Report, as well as all Klanwatch special publications, Mr. Potok has received numerous awards and accolades. The magazine was just nominated by the Uthe Reader for the Uthe Reader Alternative Press annual award in the Reporting Excellence category. This award is the highest non mainstream publication award in the United States. Mr. Potok has also been featured extensively on numerous national television broadcasts in recent weeks following the events of September 11th.

Blues Appreciation Night

Our traditional Thursday night meal will take place at the Airport Grocery, a local restaurant not a mile from campus. We will get to hear a local Delta Blues band and then hear Dr. Brown's talk on the Blues. His presentation will explore the distinctive qualities of Delta Blues music. He will outline the origins of this American art form while placing it in the context of regional culture and politics. Central to his discussion is the manner in which Delta Blues served as a vehicle for African American political and artistic expression from within a rigid system of labor relations and social structure. Musical selections from important Delta Blues artists will be used to accentuate these points.

Award Nominations Encouraged

The A-MSA recognizes the accomplishments of its members through two awards. The **Distinguished Service Award** is given to members of long standing who, according to the guidelines, "have promoted and supported the A-MSA through the sharing of their time and talents." Eligibility requirements include membership in the Association for ten years or more, a strong record of involvement in the governance of the A-MSA, and participation at the annual meetings.

The second recognition is the **Outstanding Achievement Award**. This award is given to members "who, during their professional career, have achieved particularly noteworthy accomplishments that have brought special recognition to the sociology profession and the A-MSA." A person must have been a member of the A-MSA for a minimum of six years (not continuously) to be eligible for this award.

A nomination form is attached. For further information, contact Larry Hall, Awards Committee Chair, at 334-380-3054 or hall@azalea.shc.edu. The deadline for the receipt of nominations for the 2002 meeting is January 4.

Student Papers Essential for Meeting Success

The Co-chairs for the 2002 meeting Graduate and Undergraduate competitive paper sessions wish to extend a special invitation to both undergraduate and graduate students to attend and participate in the 2002 annual meeting. An award of \$50 will be given for the best undergraduate paper and an award of \$50 for the

most outstanding graduate paper. The deadline for the submission of student papers is January 4, 2000. Rules for the student paper competition are attached.

RECRUITMENT AND RETAINMENT GIVEN HIGH IMPORTANCE

Please contact Albert B. Nylander,
anylandr@dsu.deltast.edu or John Dunkelburger,
jdunkelb@acesag.auburn.edu with names of possible
new members or past members that should be invited to
return to our association.

Directions to Cleveland

Coming From...

Memphis - Take U.S. 61 south to Cleveland (about 110 miles). Once in Cleveland, turn right on to Miss. Hwy 8 (3rd traffic signal) and proceed through the business district. Go through the 4th traffic signal (intersection of 8 and Fifth Avenue) and the main entrance to the campus is on the left.

Jackson - Take U.S. 49 north to Yazoo City where the highway splits into U.S. 49W (to the left) and U.S. 49E (straight ahead) at the first traffic signal. Turn left on to U.S. 49W which will take you through downtown Yazoo City. Remain on 49W all the way to Indianola (about 65-70 miles) until intersection with U.S. 82 (4-way stop). Turn left on to 82 and proceed about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile to traffic signal (Miss. Hwy 448). Turn right on to 448 and proceed 15 miles to Shaw where 448 intersects U.S. 61. Turn right and go 10.8 miles to intersection of 8 in Cleveland. Then follow above directions to get to the campus.

Vicksburg - Take U.S. 61 north all the way to Cleveland (110 miles) to the intersection of Hwy 8 in Cleveland. Then follow above directions to get to the campus.

For Interstate 55 Travelers from Jackson: Take I-55 north to Grenada and take Exit 206 (Miss. Hwys 7-8). Turn to left at end of exit ramp and proceed on 8 all the way to Cleveland (about 53 miles). Hwy 8 splits from 7 at Holcomb. Bear to the right (A Delta State University sign is there.). Then follow above directions to get to the campus.

A-MSA NEWS

Calhoun Community College - Carol Chenault will be one of the professionals in the new Introduction to Sociology telecourse that's linked to the Kornblum text,

Sociology in a Changing World. The series is produced at Dallas County Community College and Harcourt.

The Department of Sociology at Auburn University Montgomery invites applicants for a Fall 2002 tenure-track appointment at the rank of assistant professor. Areas of expertise must include some combination of medical sociology, human sexuality, religion, family, and theory. The candidate will teach courses ranging from introductory sociology to advanced undergraduate and graduate offerings. Teaching experience and potential for scholarly development are also required. The Ph.D. is required at the time of appointment. The successful candidate must provide proof of eligibility to work in the United States. Send application letter, curriculum vitae, official transcripts, writing samples, and three letters of reference by December 15, 2001, to: Craig T. Sheldon, Head, Department of Sociology, PO Box 244023, Montgomery, AL 36124-4023. AUM is an EOE/AA Employer.

The University of North Alabama - A note from Craig Robertson. UNA will, beginning in November, be calling each community college and 2 and 4 year institutions with sociology/behavioral science departments and those that appear to offer sociology courses. UNA will take steps to inform them of the meeting and the on-line registration effort. The on-line registration page works well and we have registered a handful of members.

AMSA members are asked to please let Craig know whether they would like to expand the website usage by creating message boards, discussion forums, and venues for critique of research work. You can reach Craig through our website at <http://www2.una.edu/almssa/>.

Also, e-mail Craig a FAX number or e-mail address of a friend/associate that might be out of the AMSA loop. Let's all help Craig pass the word about the upcoming meeting.

Delta State University - The Community Development Society (CDS), the world's largest organization with academics and practitioners working in community and economic development, will hold its 2002 Annual International Conference at Delta State University in Cleveland, MS. The dates are July 21 - 24, 2002. The conference theme is "Building Peace: Community & Diversity." The call for papers and interactive sessions will be presented on the web soon. For information about CDS or the 2002 program check out the web page at www.comm-dev.org.