

## 2005-2006 Executive Committee

### President

Gary Long  
Department of Sociology  
and Anthropology  
University of Mississippi  
P. O. Box 1848  
University, MS 38677-1848  
(Office) 662-915-7297  
(Fax) 662-915-5372  
salong@olemiss.edu

### Past President

Dennis L. Peck  
The University of Alabama  
Box 870314  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35847  
(Office) 205-348-1944  
(Fax) 205-348-9419  
dpeck@tenhour.as.ua.edu  
peck@bama.ua.edu

### President-Elect

Kimberly P. Brackett  
Department of Sociology  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
329 Business  
Montgomery, AL 36124-4023  
(Office) 334-244-3943  
kbracket@mail.aum.edu

### Secretary

Alma Calix  
Department of Sociology and  
Criminal Justice  
Hinds Community College  
P. O. Box 1100  
Raymond, MS 39154  
AJCalix@hindsc.edu

### Treasurer

Clark Hudspeth  
Department of Sociology  
Jacksonville State University  
324 Brewer Hall  
700 Pelham Road North  
Jacksonville, AL 36265-1602  
(Office) 256-782-5620  
(Fax) 256-782-5168  
hudspeth@succ.jsu.edu

### Communication Director

Thomas Kersen  
Department of Sociology  
University of North Alabama  
UNA Box 5142  
Florence, AL 35632-0001  
(Office) 256-765-4538  
tmkersen@una.edu

### Archivist

Don Bogle  
Center for Demographic Research  
Box 244023  
Auburn University in Montgomery  
Montgomery, AL 36124-4023  
(Office) 334-244-3388  
(Fax) 334-244-3443  
bogle@mail.aum.edu

### MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

#### Alabama

Gladys Lyles (2006)  
Alabama State University  
P. O. Box 271  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0271  
(Office) 334-229-4362  
glyles@alasu.edu

Andrew Zeker (2007)  
Tuskegee University  
Department of Sociology  
and Psychology  
Tuskegee, AL 36088  
(Office) 334-727-8006  
zeker@Tuskegee.edu

Carolyn Pevey (2008)  
Department of Sociology  
Auburn University at Montgomery  
329 Liberal Arts  
Montgomery, AL 36101-0271  
(Office) 334-244-3550  
cpevey@mail.aum.edu

## ALABAMA-MISSISSIPPI SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

### FALL 2005 NEWSLETTER



### An Invitation to Attend the A-MSA Program:

### *Social Inequality in Our New Gilded Age*

February 24-25, 2005

from

**Gary L. Long, A-MSA President**

**The University of Mississippi**



**You are cordially invited to attend and to participate in the 2006 meetings of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association, to be held at the University of Mississippi in Oxford. The theme for this year's 37th annual meeting, is "Social Inequality in Our New Gilded Age." Made more timely by Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, this theme calls attention to the growing inequities**

Mississippi

Ming Tsui (2006)  
Box 150213  
Millsaps College  
Jackson, MS 38210  
(Office) 601-974-1388  
tsuim@millsaps.edu

John Green (2007)  
Delta State University  
Division of Social Sciences  
Cleveland, MS 38732  
(Office) 662-846-4069  
jgreen@deltastate.edu

Mahasin Owens-Sabir  
(2008)  
Department of Sociology &  
Criminal Justice  
Jackson State University  
Jackson, MS 39217  
mahasin.owens-  
sabir@jsums.edu

**of wealth and income in America that have occurred in the last 30 years, and to some of their consequences.**

**In the last three decades in America, we have witnessed a concentration of income and wealth that is perhaps unprecedented since the 19th century era of the great American fortunes. This concentration exceeds, I think, that which occurred just before the market crash in 1929. This pattern of wealth and income moving toward the top of the social hierarchy began just before the Reagan presidency. And, although slightly moderated by the Clinton government, the tax and spend policies of the last four administrations have continued to funnel wealth and income upward. I selected this theme because I think sociologists ought to know more about, and talk more about, the dramatic changes that have affected American society since the late 1970s, and about the policies that contributed to these changes. I think we can look forward to an interesting and enlightening program and to a convivial meeting at this, the 37th annual meeting of AMSA.**

**Arrangements for the 2006 meetings are just about finalized. I have received generous financial support from Dr. Glenn Hopkins, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts, and from Vice Chancellor Alice Clark and Max Williams at the Office of Research. The A-MSA Conference will be held in the E. F. Yerby Conference Center, near the Grove, on the University of Mississippi Campus. The Banquet will be held Thursday evening, on campus, in the Johnson Commons Ballroom after a wine and cheese reception at the recently refurbished Ole Miss Train Depot.**

**Some of the highlights of this year's program will be a roundtable discussion on Katrina-related research in the two-state region, a special session on the History of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association that will be chaired by Larry Hall (Larry, Don Bogie, and Duane Gill are doing the research on the association's history), and a session on researching the media chaired by Kirk Johnson from the University of Mississippi.**

**The Program Co-Chair for this year's meeting in Oxford is my colleague, Elise S. Lake. A person of many useful suggestions, she is helping me to organize the meetings and attend to the details.**

**If you have suggestions for, or questions about, this year's meeting at Oxford contact me, Gary L. Long at: [salong@olemiss.edu](mailto:salong@olemiss.edu). Or contact Elise S. Lake at: [salake@olemiss.edu](mailto:salake@olemiss.edu). Both of us are in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Mississippi, University, MS, 38677. Or, leave a message at 662-915-7421.**

**Please make plans to attend and to participate in this year's meetings in Oxford. Be sure to make your motel reservations early. Remember that to attend the banquet requires advance registration.**

**Finally, I need to thank Dennis Peck for his advice and assistance over the last year to an incoming president with the very detailed task of organizing a conference. Thanks, Dennis!**

Gary L. Long

***Report on the 2005 A-MSA Meeting in Tuscaloosa, by Gary L. Long***

**Former President Dennis Peck fielded an excellent and informative meeting in Tuscaloosa this past February. Assisted by a diligent Program Chair, Mr. Darren Surman, and Dennis's**

energetic wife, Peggy, the meeting was well organized and well run. Approximately 130 registrants attended sessions related to the theme “A Positive Sociology,” at Bryant Conference Center on February 24 and 25.

One of the highlights of the conference was Dr. Kenneth J. Davidson’s (University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire) Plenary Address entitled “Sociological Inquiry: A Positive Force in Understanding Marriage, Families, and Sexuality.” Dr. Davidson was informative as well as entertaining in his discussion of the complicated relations between males and females and hidden dimensions of their sexualities. Another highlight was the presentation by Carla Howery, Deputy Executive Officer of the American Sociological Association, on the ASA’s suggested curricula profiles for undergraduate majors. Carla, always wry and funny, discussed the ASA’s efforts to make the major in sociology rigorous and coherent through curricula that build toward the senior year and toward capstone courses.

At Tuscaloosa, forty-four students registered for the conference, almost forty percent of the registered attendees. My sense is that this a unusually high number. Several of the student registrants were affiliated with Ming Tsui, from Millsaps.

Three undergraduate student papers and one graduate student paper were honored at the banquet in Alabama. Madeline Sims of Millsaps College received the First Place Undergraduate Paper Award for her paper, “Historical and Current Analysis on the Impact of Religion and Abortion Attitudes in the 2004 Election.” The Second Place Undergraduate winner was Rebecca Hanson of the University of Montevallo for her paper, “Duct Tape, Eyeliner, and High Heels: Ethnography of a Drag Show.” The Third Place undergraduate winner was Courtney Blair of Auburn University, Montgomery, for her paper, “A Comparative Study of Sexuality Among Rural and Urban College Students.” Marvin Corbett of Auburn University won the Graduate Student Paper Award for his effort entitled “Hotbeds for Hate Groups: Competition Theory Used in an Analysis of Alabama, California, Florida and Texas Counties.”



The conference in Tuscaloosa was both congenial and intellectually stimulating. President Dennis Peck is to be congratulated for presiding over a fine conference.

## ***Committees and Memberships***

### ***Student Papers***

Ming Tsui from Millsaps College is this year’s Chair of the Student Paper Awards Committee. She will be assisted in judging papers by David LoConto (Jacksonville State, Alabama), Steve Parker (University of Montevallo), Robert Jenkot (University of Alabama), Janis McCoy (Itawamba Community College), and John Green (Delta State University). The task of judging papers is time-consuming and I appreciate the willingness of committee members to serve. In order that they can do their job in good time and with the consideration that submissions deserve, I request that students submit their program entries by January 13, 2006.

Please send student entries in electronic format to Gary L. Long at: [salong@olemiss.edu](mailto:salong@olemiss.edu), by **January 13, 2006**. I will forward the papers to Ming Tsui. The authors of student papers judged outstanding by the Awards Committee will be acknowledged at the Thursday evening banquet and will be honored with the A-MSA’s Student Undergraduate and Graduate Paper Awards.

## ***Nominations Committee***

Vaughn Grisham from the University of Mississippi is the chair of the Nomination Committee this year. Members include Don Bogie (Auburn, Montgomery), John Dunkelberger (Auburn University), Kim Brackett (Auburn Montgomery), and Albert Nylander (Delta State University). This year the committee is responsible for selecting a president-elect from Mississippi for 2006-2007, and two state representatives, one from Mississippi and one from Alabama. To nominate candidates, contact Vaughn Grisham at: [vgrisham@olemiss.edu](mailto:vgrisham@olemiss.edu).

## ***Publications Committee and the new e-Journal***

Chaired again this year by Larry Hall of Springhill College, the members of this committee helped to bring into existence, during the last year, the new A-MSA e-Journal. Named the *A-MSA On-Line Sociological Review* by a poll of members, the journal is housed at the University of Mississippi, as is the journal web site. Members of this committee—Larry, Arthur Cosby (Mississippi State), Charles Faupel (Auburn), Dennis Peck (Alabama) and Gary Long—function as an advisory board for the new publication. They offer suggestions and advice about the journal's organization and operation. The new journal is peer-reviewed. It publishes theoretical, empirical, and other manuscripts (e.g., opinion pieces) of note to sociologists. Student submissions are welcome. By policy, the journal will attempt to publish papers authored by graduate and undergraduate students as well as faculty members, in approximately a 1:1 ratio of student to faculty papers. For information about the journal, contact Larry Hall at: [Larry Hall \[hall@shc.edu\]](mailto:Larry.Hall@shc.edu) or the editor, Gary L. Long at [salong@olemiss.edu](mailto:salong@olemiss.edu).

Deputy editors for the new journal Elise S. Lake ([salake@olemiss.edu](mailto:salake@olemiss.edu)), Minjoo Oh ([minjoo@olemiss.edu](mailto:minjoo@olemiss.edu)) and Ming Tsui ([tsuim@millsaps.edu](mailto:tsuim@millsaps.edu)). A list of associate editors and statement of journal policies can be found on the journal web site at: <http://www.olemiss.edu/pubs/amsa/>.

We urge you to consider our new journal as a home for your manuscripts.

## ***Committee for Awards***

Dennis Peck, Duane Gill, John Dunkelberger, Albert Nylander, and Larry Hall, all past presidents of A-MSA, are the members of this year's committee for awards. Their task is to select two members of the association whose career and work represent "Outstanding Achievement in the Discipline" and "Distinguished Service to the Discipline." Please consider making a recommendation for one or more of these categories to members of this committee. Use the attached Nomination Form enclosed with this Newsletter (separate file) or visit the A-MSA web site.

## ***Subscription Committee***

At the Executive Committee meeting in Tuscaloosa an idea was discussed for securing a more reliable bank balance for the A-MSA. The suggestion was that we ask the chairs of the larger schools, perhaps those with graduate programs, to underwrite the association with annual membership subscriptions of \$100.00. There are good reasons to try to raise a little extra money. A-MSA's bank account depends, in part, on the willingness of the deans and other administrators at hosting institutions to subsidize our meetings. Unwilling administrators can wreak havoc on our organization's bottom line; we could even go broke. I believe that a little larger carry-over from year-to-year, a cushion, might give the association more options when it comes to choosing locations for meetings. The point of this subscription is not to make invidious distinctions between institutions with graduate programs and those without, but to create an insurance

policy and increase our flexibility.

In return for a subscription, perhaps we could develop links on the association's web site that would assist undergraduates seeking information about graduate schools. We might institute a recruiting roundtable, or "meet and greet" session, at the annual meeting for graduate departments seeking potential applicants and for undergraduates seeking more information. These services would compensate departments for donations, give them a rationale for doing so, and could serve the interests of all A-MSA member institutions that have undergraduates who might seek graduate training. The point is ensure A-MSA solvency. I am interested in hearing responses to this suggestion. Tom Petee has taken the initiative on this (peteeta@auburn.edu).

### ***The A-MSA Archives***

Our Archivist continues to be Don Bogie, a yeoman member of the A-MSA. Don is Director of the Auburn at Montgomery Demographic Research Center. This year, in his capacity as archivist, as long-time participant in in the association, and as a repository of knowledge about A-MSA, Don is participating with Larry Hall and Duane Gill in an effort to chronicle the history of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association. Thanks to these three past presidents for their willingness to document the history of the association while memories and records are still accessible.

### ***Department News and Events***

***From Mississippi State*** by Duane Gill & Peter Wood

Dr. Xiaohe Xu recently received the "Beverly B. and Gordon W. Gulmon Dean's Distinguished Professor of Sociology Award" earlier this Fall. Dr. Xu serves as the Graduate Coordinator in Sociology and is a former Member at Large for the AMSA.

Duane A. Gill recently completed his term as President of the Mid-South Sociological Association. His presidential address at the annual meeting in Atlanta was entitled, "Conceptualizing Secondary Disasters: Insights from Hurricane Katrina."

The Social Science Research Center (SSRC) at Mississippi State has been host to several faculty from New Orleans universities displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Visiting Scholars are: Anthony Ladd, Loyola University; John Marszalek, Xavier University; Dennis McSeveney, University of New Orleans; Ann Kos Edwards, University of New Orleans; and Wei Xiao, University of New Orleans.

These Visiting Scholars worked with SSRC scientists to conduct two surveys: one of MSU students that were affected by Katrina and one of students displaced from New Orleans universities. Other Hurricane Katrina research activities by the SSRC include research on children and families, an investigation of how the hurricane disrupted NSF-funded research projects, and a Katrina Summit that brought together disaster researchers and social scientists from affected areas to discuss research needs, approaches, and challenges.

Members of the department at MSU have two new colleagues—both criminologists. Jim Unnever came to Starkville from Radford University (Ph.D., Duke) as a tenured Associate Professor. Nicole Rader is a new Assistant Professor with her Ph.D. from Southern Illinois.



The Mississippi State University Social Science Research Center has just celebrated its 55th anniversary. Art Cosby, Director of the center, presided over a celebratory banquet. Over the past 25 years, the SSRC has generated about 100 million dollars in external funds for research.

**Ms. Deborah Harris is a recipient of the Rural Policy Research Institute's dissertation fellowship. Ms. Harris is working under the direction of Dr. Domenico Parisi.**

Peter Wood was elected President of the United Chapters of Alpha Kappa Delta, the International Sociology Honor Society, for a two-year term. He assumed office in August to 2004. AKD now has over 60,000 "lifetime" members and currently initiates about 4000 each year. In addition, Peter is the new President of the Southern Criminal Justice Association for 2005-2006.

***From the University of Mississippi*, by Gary L. Long.**

The Department of Sociology & Anthropology at the University of Mississippi is in search mode again, seeking a tenure-track assistant professor to teach methods and statistics, with a specialization in medical/health and aging, environment and technology, disasters, urban/community, religion, or labor/international migration. This will be the fourth junior faculty position filled in the last two years. In addition, our new joint appointment with African-American Studies, Kirk Johnson, assumed his duties this fall. Kirk, who has interests in media and ethnomedicine, came to Oxford from Bowdoin College.

Vaughn Grisham, former President of A-MSA, has announced his retirement from Ole Miss after over 30 years in the department. Vaughn will teach part-time for a year or so and continue his consulting activities. Vaughn is a long-time supporter of A-MSA, with many friends in the region. Those of you who know Vaughn will want to wish him well as he prepares to leave the academy.

David Swanson, chair of the Sociology & Anthropology Department at Ole Miss, and two other Ole Miss faculty, Rich Forgette, Chair of the Political Science Department, and Mark van Boening, Chair of the Economics Department, have received word that the National Science Foundation has funded their pilot study of perceptions of relief and recovery among Mississippi Gulf Coast residents in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The central question of the study is about the role of social (and kinship) networks in determining a person's success in the aftermath of a natural disaster such as Katrina. "Success" refers to the individual's capacity to obtain physical and emotional relief as well as to maintain a strong belief in eventual community recovery following the disaster.

To study the role of social networks, the researchers will conduct field surveys in Hancock and Harrison counties. Survey instruments will measure the strength and number of kinship and neighbor relationships for individuals within various Mississippi Gulf Coast communities, and provide a measure of bonding and bridging networks within their immediate community. A similar analysis will be used to look at the effects of individuals' social and kinship networks compared to socioeconomic standing on disaster relief and recovery perceptions. This research may enhance the ability of communities and groups to understand how aspects of public policy, health, safety, and public welfare can be addressed in advance and in the aftermath of catastrophic natural events, by identifying community social networks.

Interviewers on the project will be primarily Ole Miss faculty and students. The remainder will consist of Mississippi Gulf coast residents. The actual data collection will take place over a five-day period in January. This will be preceded by training and an on-site pilot study to refine measuring techniques.

As a natural consequence of the study, basic "census" quality data will be gathered. This may be the first time that a virtual census has been done to assess damage to housing stock following a natural disaster.

As secretary-treasurer of the Southern Demographic Association, David Swanson hosted the SDA conference meetings at the University of Mississippi, November 3-5. The meetings ran smoothly. David received many congratulations on a well-organized conference.

***News About the AMSA On-Line Sociological Review***, by Gary L. Long, Editor

The Association's new journal, housed at the University of Mississippi, Department of Sociology and Anthropology is coming into existence, in fits and starts. Three manuscripts have been sent out for review since July. Two are single-authored pieces by students from Mississippi and Alabama. One is a jointly authored manuscript with a faculty member. Two of the manuscripts are undergoing revision. I expect another to be in revision shortly. I have received a promise of a fourth manuscript. When I and the Associate Editors Elise S. Lake and Minjoo Oh, have five or six manuscripts of which we and their authors are proud, we will publish the inaugural issue. In the meantime, if you have not done so yet, visit the journal web site at: <http://www.olemiss.edu/pubs/amsa/>. Also, consider sending us that manuscript that has not found a home elsewhere.

If you are willing to review manuscripts for the journal, contact Gary L. Long at: [salong@olemiss.edu](mailto:salong@olemiss.edu). Send along a vita so we can get a sense of your specialties and interests.

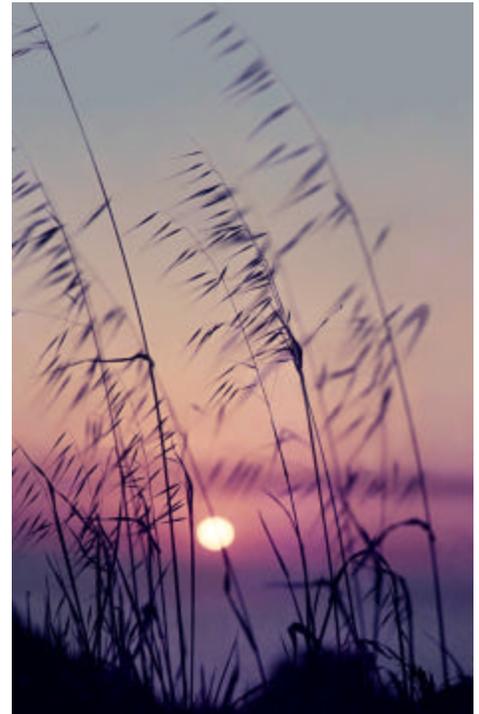
***From the University of Alabama***, by Dennis Peck

Dr. Dennis L. Peck, immediate past-president of A-MSA, is serving as Coeditor-in-chief of the two-volume *Handbook of 21st Century Sociology* to be published by Sage in 2006.

There is a vacancy as chair of the Criminal Justice Department where sociology is currently housed.

***From Delta State University***, by Albert Nylander

John Green (Delta State University) and Anna Kleiner (Southeastern Louisiana University) are participating in a project to document and synthesize the impacts, needs and future development interests of community residents following the recent disasters in the Gulf South. They are focusing especially on East Biloxi, Mississippi, using observation and qualitative interview methods in addition to a standardized questionnaire/intake form. Delta State Division of Social Sciences Chair, Albert Nylander, Eleanor Green, and three Community Development graduate students (Justina Garcia, Sarah Leonard and Sharon Williams) are providing assistance. In addition, John and Anna are working to inform discussions of rural development, especially in relation to small-scale, limited resource and minority farmers across the region. All of this work is taking place in collaboration with Oxfam America, East Biloxi Coordination and Relief Center, and the Mississippi Association of Cooperatives. To facilitate collaboration among people engaged in community-based research, DSU, SLU and these affiliated partners held a one-day workshop in Hammond, LA. Thirty-five researchers, practitioners, and advocates participated. There are discussions to hold a follow-up meeting in spring 2006. More information about these endeavors is available from the Institute for Community-Based Research website: [http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp\\_academic/jgreen/Institute\\_CBR/Institute\\_for\\_Community\\_Based\\_Research.htm](http://ntweb.deltastate.edu/vp_academic/jgreen/Institute_CBR/Institute_for_Community_Based_Research.htm).



***From Samford University, by Hugh Floyd***

Theresa Davidson has joined the faculty of Samford University as an Assistant Professor. Dr. Davidson received her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. Her teaching and research interests center on social inequality. She presented a paper, "Support Systems After Welfare Reform," at the Southern Demographic Association Meeting, Oxford, MS, November 4-5, 2005.

Ashley Sharpe recently was recognized with a 3rd place award for participation in the undergraduate sociology paper competition at the Mid-South Sociological Association.

***From Calhoun Community College, by Carmen Blalock***

Carmen Blalock recently visited the Distance Learning Program at Seattle Community College and Seattle Community College Television. The visit was related to Carmen's interest in distance learning. The photograph, by Carmen, was taken from Seattle's Space Needle.



***From The University of Southern Mississippi, by Amy Chasteen Miller***

The University of Southern Mississippi's sociology program welcomed a new colleague in fall 2005, Dr. Dana Fennell (Ph.D. Florida, 2005). Dana's primary areas of interest are health, the environment, and sociology of knowledge. Her current research examines social issues associated with genetically modified foods, as well as the use of alternative medical therapies.

Others in the department continue their research, service-learning activities, and their work with students. Amy Chasteen Miller and Ann Marie Kinnell presented papers at the Fall 2005 Mid-South Sociological Association meetings in Atlanta, where student Jackson Bunch also won first place in the undergraduate paper competition for his paper, "Intoxicating Substances and Sober Judgment: A Case Study of High-Achieving Undergraduate Substance Users." Two other students, Toi Carter and Kelli Pribanic, began graduate school this fall at University of California Riverside and University of Wyoming.

***From Jacksonville State University, by Clark Hudspeth***

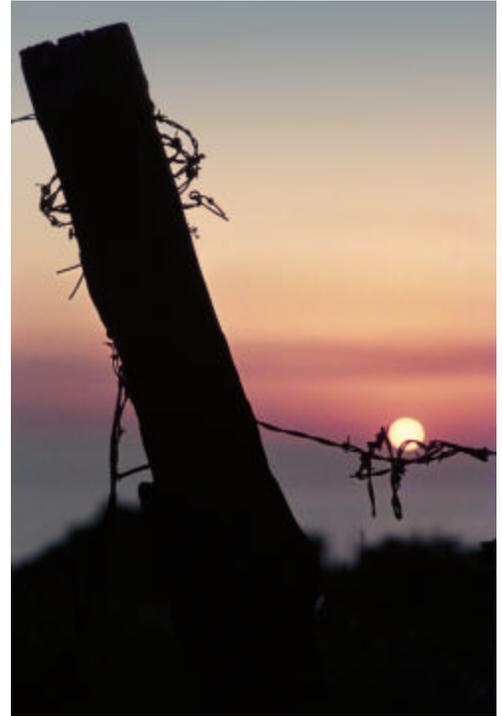
A new faculty member, Dr. Tina Deshotels, has joined the department at Jackson State University from Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. Born and raised in Opelousas, Dr. Deshotels received her undergraduate degree from the University of Louisiana in Lafayette, her Masters at Middle Tennessee State University, and her Ph.D. from Florida State University. Her areas of interest are Theory and Deviant Behavior, her current research interests focus on exotic dancing, and she has published several articles in the *Journal of Deviant Behavior*. Dr. Deshotels is currently working with two students on papers to be presented at our upcoming A-MSA meeting this Spring.

The Sociology Club is having a student paper competition and is promoting presentation of student papers at the upcoming A-MSA. People in the department raised funds and supplies for Fall hurricane victims.

## **From Tougaloo College, by Stephen Rozman**

The Tougaloo College Center for Civic Engagement & Social Responsibility, directed by Stephen Rozman, will host a symposium on "Response to Community Crisis: Lessons from Recent Hurricanes," on June 6-9, 2006, at the Marriott Jackson Hotel in Jackson, Mississippi. The event is co-sponsored by the Gulf Campus Compact, the United Negro College Fund Special Programs, and the HBCU Faculty Development Network. The purpose of the symposium is to strengthen the academic community's understanding and ability to respond to the needs of citizens during times of crisis.

Organizers are seeking proposals that relate to service-learning, civic engagement, and other community-related initiatives pertinent to the theme of this conference. Proposals could deal with psychosocial, environmental, and economic effects of crises, and public policy questions created by disasters. One-page proposals should be submitted electronically, to [srozman@aol.com](mailto:srozman@aol.com), with an indication of the type of presentation that is planned, accompanied by a brief biography. Deadline for proposals is December 1, 2005.



## ***From Spring Hill College, by Larry Hall***

**A History of the A-MSA:** A-MSA President Gary Long has asked me to chair a session at the 2006 Annual A-MSA meetings in Oxford, Mississippi, February 23-24, 2006, on the History of the A-MSA. Don Bogie, Auburn University at Montgomery and A-MSA Archivist, and Duane Gill, former A-MSA President and Professor at Mississippi State University, where the A-MSA was founded in 1969, are also trying to put together information on the origins, purpose, early years, and history of the A-MSA to place in the inaugural issue of the new electronic journal sponsored by A-MSA. This should appear in 2006. We solicit and welcome contributions from A-MSA members, former members, and friends who have knowledge of or know people who were a part of the early meetings of the A-MSA. It is important to preserve the heritage and history of this organization since fewer witnesses to those events remain active in the discipline each year. You can send any information to Dr. Larry D. Hall at [hall@shc.edu](mailto:hall@shc.edu), phone me at 251-380-3054, or send a fax to 251-460-2115.

## ***A Special Invitation to Faculty Mentors and to Students***

The Alabama-Mississippi Sociological has a long history of encouraging students to participate in the paper sessions at our conferences. We have special sessions for student papers, and we recognize and give awards to outstanding papers authored by graduate and undergraduate students. We invite you to attend our meetings, to participate, and to submit papers to be presented at sessions in Oxford, Mississippi in 2006. The Association honors each student who participates with a certificate. The authors of student papers judged to be especially noteworthy by our awards committee will receive an award of \$50.00. In addition the Association's e-journal, the *Alabama-Mississippi On-Line Sociological Review*, has a policy of seeking student papers to publish. Faculty mentors, please encourage your students to submit their work for the meeting (thereby indicating a desire to be considered for the student competition). Submit papers as e-mail attachments to Gary L. Long at: [salong@olemiss.edu](mailto:salong@olemiss.edu) or Elise S. Lake at: [salake@olemiss.edu](mailto:salake@olemiss.edu) before January 13, 2006.

***The Inn at Ole Miss is the Official Conference Hotel. Off Campus Lodging Can be Found at the Following:***

**Hotels & Motels**

**Comfort Inn**  
**662.234.6000**  
**1808 Jackson Avenue West**

**Downtown Oxford Inn & Suites**  
**662.234.3031**  
**400 North Lamar Boulevard**

**Days Inn**  
**662.234.9500**  
**1101 Frontage Road**

**Hampton Inn**  
**662.232.2442**  
**110 Heritage Drive**

**Holiday Inn Express**  
**662.236.2500; 800.HOLIDAY**  
**112 Heritage Drive**

**Johnson's Inn**  
**662.234.3611**  
**2305 Jackson Avenue West**

**Ole Miss Motel**  
**662. 234.2424**  
**1517 University Avenue**

**Super 8**  
**662.234.7013**  
**2201 Jackson Avenue West**

**Bed & Breakfast Inns**

**Blue Creek Cabin Bed & Breakfast**  
**662.238.2897**  
**535 Hwy 30 East**  
**cabin@bluecreekcabin.com**  
**[www.bluecreekcabin.com](http://www.bluecreekcabin.com)**

**The Bunkhouse**  
**662.236.7733; 662.236.4001**  
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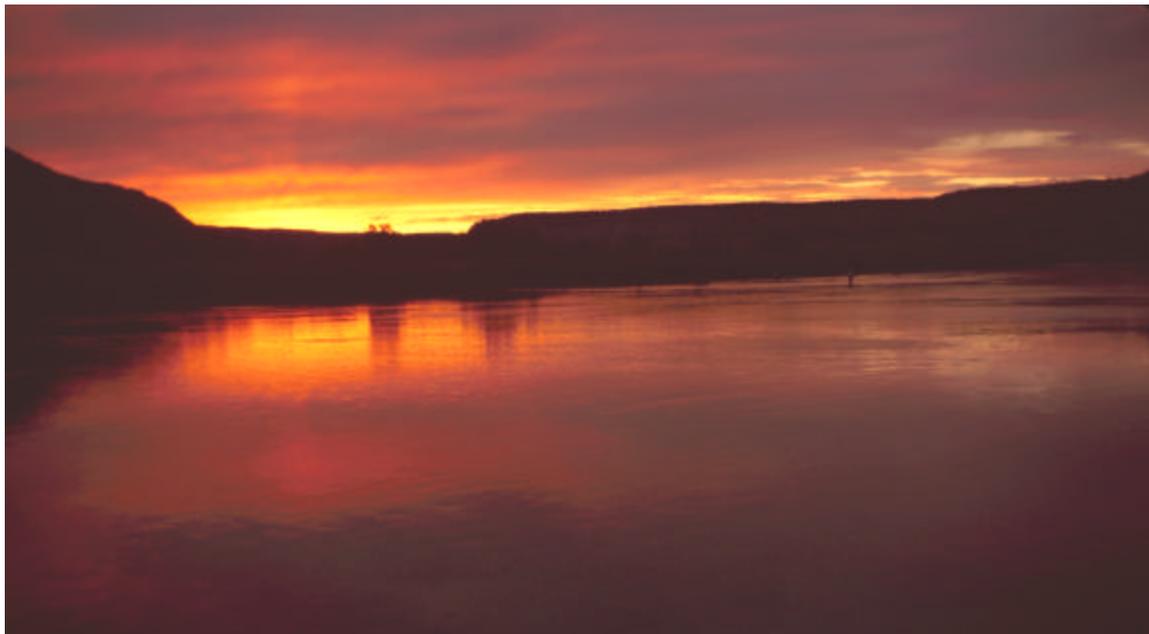
**Clear Creek Cottage**  
**662.234.4388; 662.281.8449**  
**933 Old Sardis Road**

**The Colonel's Quarters**  
**662.236.9601**  
**20 CR 413**

**Oliver-Britt House Bed and Breakfast Inn**  
**662. 234.8043**  
**512 Van Buren Avenue**

**Puddin' Place Bed and Breakfast Inn**  
**662.234.1250**  
**1008 University Avenue**

**The Tree House Bed and Breakfast Inn**  
**662. 513.6354; 877.849.8738**  
**53 County Road 321 (Off South Lamar Boulevard)**



## **Information About the 2006 A-MSA Meeting, February 23-24**

### **Finding Your Way**

Probably the easiest way to find the E. F. Yerby Conference Center and the Inn at Ole Miss is to turn North on Old Taylor Road off of Highway 6. Take Old Taylor Road on through the roundabout, past the baseball stadium to the stop sign (across the intersecting road, University Avenue, is the Ford Center for the Performing Arts). Turn left, then turn right at the next stop sign just before the information kiosk on the Grove Loop. The Conference Center will be immediately on the right, the Grove is on the Left. The Inn at Ole Miss is right next door, toward the large tan building, the Law School. MapQuest.com can locate the University of Mississippi. The university has a map on-line at <http://www.olemiss.edu/cmap/>. On the map page, use the pull-down box to select "All Buildings." Then select from the list the E. F. Yerby Conference Center. Up will come a map. Next door to the Conference Center is the Inn at Ole Miss (the old name is the Alumni House).

### **Oxford: Small Town— Good Eats, by Kirsten Dellinger, University of Mississippi**

Although everyone knows sociologists come to conferences for the sessions, I have a hunch they might also come for the food. On both counts, you're in for a treat in Oxford, MS. Although we are a small town by many standards, we've got an exciting range of excellent restaurant options.

I'll start with a culinary tour of restaurant located on or near the Square. One of the most well-known restaurants in town is *City Grocery*, a cozy restaurant with exposed brick walls adorned with the work of local artists. The outstanding chef with roots in New Orleans offers soups, salads, entrees, and desserts that have made the pages of *Bon Appetit!* The signature dish is a rich and delicious version of Shrimp n' Grits. Recently, I had a mouth-watering blackened sea scallop salad (\$9) for lunch. Ask the servers what's good that day—they've never steered me wrong. Other up-scale restaurants in the neighborhood include *The Downtown Grill*. They're famous for their catfish Lafitte (Do not pass it up!) and many fantastic dessert options. After dinner at either restaurant, you might want to venture upstairs for a drink at their respective bars. A relative newcomer just off the Square is *L&M*. You'll find that you are greeted by a hostess stationed in front of a huge glass-front "salumeria" where unbelievably delicious meats and sausages are hung to cure. Order from an *a la carte* menu of Italian-influenced fare. The grilled asparagus is a must. Homemade pastas and grilled meats and fish are fantastic. If you're up for a gigantic feast, try the "Chef's tasting menu" (about \$38 a person, not including wine). *L&M* is one of the only restaurants that serves brunch on Sunday. *208* is another option if you're feeling a little fancy. The she-crab bisque and lump crab cakes are outstanding.

Other less expensive and excellent options on the Square include *The Bottletree Bakery* which serves breakfast and lunch. Inhale deeply as you walk in the door, pull up to the old-style lunch counter or find a seat at one of the small tables in the sunny dining room. Try any of the pastries (the apple tart was featured on Oprah!) or bagels. The sandwiches and soup of the day are also excellent. *Ajax Café* is the place to go for your fix of down-home Southern cooking. Choose a "meat and two" (fried chicken, meat loaf, chicken n' dumplin's...) or a veggie plate (macaroni n' cheese is a veggie, you know), or a catfish or oyster po'boy and you'll be all set. Enjoy the cow print table clothes and try to figure out how they got all those fancy toothpicks in the ceiling! *Ole Venice Pizza* (next to *City Grocery*) serves up the best pizza in town and lots of other options as well. *Two Stick* offers sushi! At the *Downtown Oxford Inn and Suites*, you can satisfy your cravings for tamales and steak at the renowned *Doe's Eat Place*. *The Jubilee* on Jackson Ave. off the Square, *Boure'* next to *L&M's* and *Proud Larry's* across from *Square Books* are worth checking out too.

Further down North Lamar past the fire station, you'll find a new Greek-inspired restaurant named *Volta Taverna* with dolmas and gyros. One block down, in an old gas station is the incomparable *Handy Andy's* where you can get pulled pork barbeque sandwiches or great burgers.

Head the other direction towards University Avenue and you'll find *Abner's* where you can eat chicken fingers to your heart's delight. (Of course, you could stop in at the *Chevron* just across the street for a "chicken on a stick" if you're just looking for a snack.) *B's Barbeque* can be found at the *Texaco* on South Lamar—I think it's the best! Try the ribs. There are also several good sandwich shop (*Newk's*, *McAlister's*, and *Oby's*) on University Ave. The standard fast food fare is located on West Jackson and on University Ave: *McDonald's*, *Wendy's*, *Applebee's*, *Chili's*, *Zaxby's*, etc.

If you've got a car, don't miss these classic "just out of town" Oxford spots. Turn onto Highway 334 from University Ave. and make your way to *Yocona Inn*. You'll find what some have claimed to be the best filet mignon with a magical "Yocona sauce" (some combination of Bourbon, butter, and molasses, but I could be wrong!). There are plenty of other options as well. The menu changes weekly. BYOB. If you're in the mood for catfish, it's worth taking the 20-minute drive out Old Taylor Road (past the baseball stadium on the University of Mississippi campus) to *Taylor Catfish*. Bring your wine or beer in a paper sack if you like. Sit a spell on the front porch while you wait for your table or go visit the *Taylor Arts Gallery* in the old house across the street. Enjoy your catfish fried or grilled and order some peach or blackberry cobbler while you listen to live music. Don't forget to sign your name on the wall on the way out!

### ***The Alabama -Mississippi Sociological Association website***

Visit the Association's web site, currently maintained by Tom Kersen at: [ww2.una.edu/almsa/](http://ww2.una.edu/almsa/)

***See You in Oxford!***

