

**WINTER 2008**



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**Join us at Jacksonville State University  
~Jacksonville, Alabama~  
for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting of the A-MSA  
February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Upcoming Conference Highlights**

In addition to the paper presentations in our sessions, there will be other highlights to the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Here are some things to look forward to:

**New Plenary Speaker**

We will be having a new Plenary Speaker. We are pleased to have **Fran Curry**, formerly of NBC as our guest. Fran currently serves as Public Relations and Development Director for First Priority of Alabama. The ministry works with young people in helping them disciple their peers for a life of Christian service. Fran also speaks professionally for churches, businesses, and conferences, both secular and Christian.

From 1988 to 2007, Fran was employed by WVTM TV 13 in Birmingham, working her way from an entry level position to the primary anchor position. In over 18 years of service, Fran was awarded two Emmys and two Edward R. Murrow awards for excellence in journalism.

Fran used her public position to work with those in need in the community. She has served on boards for the Salvation Army, My Father's House Foundation, The Center for Urban Missions and the President's Advisory Council for Birmingham Southern College. Fran also taught Public Speaking at Miles College and served on the Alabama Governor's School faculty at Samford University.

**Thematic Sessions**

There are three thematic sessions. One will address the challenges and opportunities for Sociology programs in Alabama and Mississippi. The second will address the challenges and opportunities for teaching Sociology in Alabama and Mississippi. The third will address the challenges and opportunities for research in Alabama and Mississippi. All three sessions will be very educational.

**Session on Publishing**

Dr. Dennis Peck will be presiding over a session on publishing in both academic journals, as well as books. The panel session will include both current and/or former editors of academic journals, as well as publishing representatives. This session will be a great learning experience for professionals and students alike.

### Session on Teaching Introduction to Sociology Online

We will also have a session addressing specifically the teaching of Introduction to Sociology, online. Given that some estimates are that by 2050, 50% of all college courses will be taught online, it is in our best interest to be familiar with the changing dynamics of this method. Also there will be book representatives available to see what new technologies they have available for such ventures.

### “Sociology in Alabama and Mississippi: Challenges and Opportunities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

February 19-20, 2009

Online submissions and registration:

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

February 1, 2009

**DEADLINE** for submitting electronic abstracts; for poster and paper competitions; for banquet registration.

### Directions to the Annual Meeting

<http://www.jsu.edu/library/information/directions.html>

### A-MSA New Website

We are VERY excited about our new website. The site has been revamped with a more modern design, easier navigation, and newly added features. You can still view contact information for members, access newsletters, navigate to A-MSA's *Online Sociological Review*, and browse sociology and social science graduate programs in Alabama and Mississippi, but now you can also view links to A-MSA officer bios, job opportunities, and a brief history of our association. The new site also integrates the annual meeting web site where you will once again be able to register for the meeting and submit abstracts and papers for competitions. Finally, the site will also allow for everyone to register for the conference, as well as become a member online. **Payment online has not been established yet, but will be a feature next year.**

Come visit us at [www.a-msa.org](http://www.a-msa.org)

# PLEASE TAKE NOTE:

## **COMPLEMENTARY BREAKFASTS AND LUNCH**

Given the full schedule and the length of each day, complementary breakfasts will be available on February 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. These will consist of coffee, juice, and pastries. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, we will also provide complementary box lunches with drinks.

This is our way of keeping you around!

## **Awards Ceremony**

The awards ceremony will follow the Presidential/Student reception on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

We will present awards for poster presentations, and for both graduate and undergraduate papers.

In addition, we will be treated to the presentation of Plenary Speaker, Dr. Thomas Calhoun.

## **Presidential & Student Reception**

- This year we will have a brief reception prior to the banquet.
- This will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Houston Cole Library.
- The purpose of this reception is to create an informal atmosphere dedicated to students, to facilitate interactions between students and faculty.



## Hotel Accomodations

There are many hotels within Calhoun County, though there are none in Jacksonville. There is no 'one' hotel for A-MSA members to stay at while attending this year's conference. All of the 'hotels' listed here have stipulated that they will provide corporate rates for all participants. Simply state that you are in town for a conference at Jacksonville State University, and ask for the corporate rate. They will take care of you from there.

Here is a short list of possible hotels and motels:

*In Jacksonville* – **The University Inn** is a motel and the only place for lodging in Jacksonville. Located five minutes from campus, **The University Inn** provides most of the services typically found at hotels. Their phone number is 256-435-3300. Their address is 1530 Pelham Road South, Jacksonville, AL 36265

*In Anniston* – The **Victoria Inn** is located in historic Anniston, about 15 minutes (9 miles) from campus. **The Victoria Inn** is the typical place of stay for those who visit JSU. You can find more details at their website: <http://www.thevictoria.com/>

*In Oxford* – Oxford is the new business capital of Calhoun County. With easy access to Talladega Superspeedway, as well as shopping and restaurants, Oxford is 18 miles south of Jacksonville, and about 30 minutes from campus. Located off Interstate 20, Oxford is the home of many hotels, including **The Hampton Inn**, 256 831-8908; **The Comfort Inn & Suites**, 256 241-0950; **Courtyard by Marriott**, 256 831-7995; **The Holiday Inn Express Hotel & Suites**, 256 835-8768; and **The Wingate Inn**, 256 831-1921.

## Registration Fees

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Membership Dues for 2009 are \$20 for Faculty/Staff and \$5 for students.

Registration Fees for the 2009 A-MSA Annual Meeting are \$25 for Faculty/Staff, \$45 for Non-Members, and \$5 for students.

Banquet Fees (must be pre-paid) are \$25 for Faculty/Staff and Non-Members, and \$15 for Students

For more information, please contact the A-MSA Treasurer, Dr. Carol Chenault at A-MSA Treasurer, P.O. Box 2216, Decatur, AL 35609-2216, Phone: 256 306-2747, FAX: 256 306-2908, Email: [cdc@calhoun.edu](mailto:cdc@calhoun.edu)

## **2009 A-MSA UNDERGRADUATE PAPER COMPETITION GUIDELINES, PROCEDURES AND AWARDS**

DEADLINE for Submission: February 1, 2009

1. Students interested in participating in the Undergraduate Student Paper Competition should register for the conference via the Online Registration and Paper Submission System at the A-MSA Conference Website. Online submission of the paper title is required (abstracts are optional).
2. All authors of a participating paper must be undergraduate students. The lead author of each paper must be registered at an accredited college or university, as an undergraduate student, and must have written the paper while registered. All communications will be with the lead author.
3. Co-authorship with other undergraduate students is permitted but **co-authorship with graduate students and faculty members is not permitted.**
4. Undergraduate students competing in the undergraduate paper competition **MUST** become members of A-MSA.
5. The final paper must be double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font and not exceed 15 pages in length including all figures, tables, and references. The final manuscript must be submitted to the Undergraduate Paper Competition Chair, Dr. Tina Deshotels ([tdeshotels@jsu.edu](mailto:tdeshotels@jsu.edu)) no later than February 1, 2009.
6. The lead author or another student author must present the paper at the annual meeting.
7. Each student author will receive a Certificate of Recognition for having his/her manuscript accepted for presentation in the competition and will be considered for the AMSA On-Line Sociological Review.
8. All Submissions will be read carefully and evaluated by Competition Judges prior to the annual meeting. The Competition Judges will select the outstanding undergraduate student paper. A special certificate will be awarded to the student author(s) of the outstanding paper. The monetary award is \$200.00 for the selected paper.
9. The outstanding paper will be announced during the banquet. In addition, the authors' names and paper title will be posted on the A-MSA website and announced in the A-MSA newsletter.

For additional information or to submit a paper, please contact:

Tina Hebert Deshotels, Ph.D.  
Department of Sociology and Social Work  
Jacksonville State University  
700 Pelham Road North  
Jacksonville, AL 36265  
(256) 782-5350  
[tdeshotels@jsu.edu](mailto:tdeshotels@jsu.edu)

## **2009 A-MSA GRADUATE PAPER COMPETITION GUIDELINES, PROCEDURES AND AWARDS**

DEADLINE for Submission: February 1, 2009

1. Students interested in participating in the Graduate Student Paper Competition should register for the conference via the Online Registration and Paper Submission System at the A-MSA Conference Website.

An abstract of no more than 300 words must be submitted online at [www.A-MSA.org](http://www.A-MSA.org) and the final manuscript must be submitted to the Graduate Paper Competition Chair, Dr. Thomas Kersen ([thomas.m.kersen@jsums.edu](mailto:thomas.m.kersen@jsums.edu)).

2. All authors of a participating paper must be graduate students. The lead author of each paper must be registered at an accredited college or university, as a graduate student, and must have written the paper while registered. All communications will be with the lead author.
3. Co-authorship with other graduate students is permitted but **co-authorship with undergraduate students and faculty members is not permitted.**
4. Students competing in the graduate paper competition **MUST** become members of the A-MSA.

The final paper must be double-spaced using 12-point Times New Roman font and not exceed 20 pages in length including all figures, tables, and references. The final manuscript must be submitted to the Graduate Paper Competition Chair, Dr. Thomas Kersen ([thomas.m.kersen@jsums.edu](mailto:thomas.m.kersen@jsums.edu)) no later than February 1, 2009.

5. The lead author or another student author must present the paper at the annual meeting.
6. Each student author will receive a Certificate of Recognition for having his/her manuscript accepted for presentation in the competition and will be considered for the AMSA On-Line Sociological Review.
7. All Submissions will be read carefully and evaluated by Competition Judges prior to the annual meeting. The Competition Judges will select the outstanding graduate student paper. A special certificate will be awarded to the student author(s) of the outstanding paper. The monetary award is \$200.00 for the selected paper.
8. The outstanding paper will be announced during the banquet. In addition, the authors' names and paper title will be posted on the A-MSA website and announced in the A-MSA newsletter.

For additional information or to submit a paper, please contact:

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Department of Criminal Justice and Sociology  
Jackson State University  
PO Box 18830  
Jackson, MS 39217-1030  
Telephone: 601-979-3040  
Fax: 601-979-8275  
[thomas.m.kersen@jsums.edu](mailto:thomas.m.kersen@jsums.edu)

## A-MSA 2009 Annual Meeting – Poster Competition Guidelines

Below are the guidelines for participation in the A-MSA 2009 Annual Meeting Poster competition. The deadline for submission is February 1, 2009. Please contact the Chair of the Poster Competition, Dr. Steven Grice at [sgrice@nsparc.msstate.edu](mailto:sgrice@nsparc.msstate.edu) if you have any questions.

1. There is no limit on poster size. However, it is recommended that posters not exceed 4' by 6'.
2. Tentative plans are that your poster will be on display for a 6-hour time period. You will need to have your poster set up before the start of the display period. Allow yourself plenty of time for the setup. You are expected to be present during the two-hour poster session to discuss your work with judges and interested parties and be available to remove your poster.
3. Your poster represents you, your school, and the A-MSA. Take great care to plan and organize it well. Your poster should be constructed so that it presents the desired information in a self-explanatory manner. Make sure it communicates the intended information in an interesting, visual manner.
4. Keep it simple and brief. Think of a poster as a series of highly efficient, organized “panels” upon which appear synopses of the relevant information you want to convey – just enough to get your point across.
5. Organize your poster materials using headings, such as “Introduction,” “Research Question,” “Methodology,” and “Findings.” These headings will help establish a logical flow to your poster.
6. Use large enough fonts so people will not have to squint to read the material. For headings, use at

least a **48-point** font. For text, use nothing less than **18-point**.

7. Make your poster visually appealing. Have fun. Be creative. Incorporate color. Use photographs, maps, charts, graphs, and the like. Simplify charts and figures to include only relevant information. Be attentive to the layout and placement of your materials.
8. Place the title of your work in a prominent position on your poster. Include your name and your institution/affiliation.
9. Provide a concise handout that summarizes your work so that interested observers may have something to take away from the event.
10. Do not plan on using any audio-visual equipment. None will be available, and if you bring your own, it will not be secure.
11. All Submissions will be evaluated by Competition Judges during the poster session. The Competition Judges will select the outstanding poster. A special certificate will be awarded to the author(s) of the outstanding poster. The monetary award is \$200.00 for the selected poster.
12. The outstanding poster will be announced during the banquet. In addition, the authors' names and poster title will be posted on the A-MSA website and announced in the A-MSA newsletter.

# Get Out the Vote!!!!!!

During the General Business Meeting at the end of this year's annual meeting, we will be voting on several measures aimed at changes in our Constitution and By-Laws. **All members are eligible to vote.** You can access the current Constitution and By-Laws at:

<http://www.a-msa.org/AMSA%20Constitution%20and%20Bylaws%20with%20Amendments%20through%20Februar.pdf>

The proposed changes are as follows:

## Proposed Changes to the A-MSA Constitution

1. Article VI, Section 1: Proposed change-The Archivist as a member of the Executive Committee shall have full voting rights. Rationale: The Archivist is trusted with seeking out and understanding the history of the Association. In doing so, the Archivist understands the context and purpose of the Association as well as anyone. This knowledge provides a better understanding of the issues and how they will impact the Association. Therefore, the vote of the Archivist would be highly valued.
2. New Item: The Editor of the official journal of the Association should be a voting member of the Executive Committee. Rationale: This would place that position in comparable responsibilities with journal editors of other regional associations. In addition to serving on the Executive Committee, the Editor would conduct journal business in a manner consistent with established protocols. The length of service of the Editor is indefinite however, may be replaced at the discretion of the Executive Committee, and may step down as Editor once another Editor is chosen by the Executive Committee.

## Proposed Changes to the A-MSA By-Laws

1. Section 2: Proposed Change-Regular membership should be open to all professionals or non-students who are interested in sociology and the A-MSA. Rationale: The Association is much more inclusive than the wording represents at this time. Many professionals are working in a diverse number of programs. This change would allow for any professional to join without question, unless a specific individual is identified and voted upon by the Executive Committee.
2. Section 3: Proposed Change-Student membership shall be opened to all full-time students. Rationale: Similar to the rationale for regular members. The Association should be open to all full time students who are interested in Sociology regardless of their area of current study. The reason for making this specific to full time students, is to avoid professionals taking part-time loads in school to meet the requirements of a student member.
3. Section 5: Proposed Change-Membership fee for the year commencing at the end of the annual conference is due prior to, or at the annual conference. Rationale: This would reflect the changes in payment options on the Association website which begins in October, 2008. With the availability to gain membership year-round, there needs to be a more flexible time element in joining the Association.
  - A. Membership dues paid less than six months after the annual conference will be applied to the current year membership.

- B. Membership dues paid six months after the annual conference will be applicable to the following year. The member will gain access to the website and have full membership access upon receipt of payment for membership. Rationale: This will not punish individuals for early payment.
- 4. Article VIII, Section 3: Proposed Change-The section should include Posters with student papers. Rationale: This would now officially recognize poster competitions with the paper competitions.

## **Other Proposals**

The Association's Executive Committee should begin the process of becoming a Non-Profit Organization, and present a formal proposal for such incorporation to the membership for a vote at the 2010 business meeting. Rationale: This will provide greater organizational formalization and free up the Association to accept tax-deductible funds from private donors, which will provide additional opportunities to raise funds not only for annual conferences, but also awards, scholarships, or other endeavors agreed upon by the Association.

# **Professional Opportunity**

## **Call for Papers**

The A-MSA journal, the A-MSA Online Sociological Review, housed at the University of Mississippi is accepting submissions for publications. Edited by Dr. Gary L. Long, with assistance from Drs. Elise S. Lake, Minjoo Oh, and Ming Tsui, the journal publishes reviewed papers, essays, and comments authored by both faculty and students. One of the purposes of the journal is to encourage faculty-student collaboration at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. By policy, the journal will provide space for undergraduate submissions.

Send manuscripts to:

Dr. Gary Long  
Department of Sociology and Anthropology  
The University of Mississippi  
P.O. Box 1848  
University, MS 38677-1848  
662 915-7297  
salong@olemiss.edu

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## **A-MSA Officers**

**President:**

**David G. LoConto, Jacksonville State University**

**President elect:**

**John Green, Delta State University**

**Treasurer:**

**Carol Chinault, Calhoun Community College**

**Secretary:**

**Alma Calix, Hinds Community College**

**Communications Director:**

**Tom Kersen, Jackson State University**

**Archivist:**

**Don Bogie, Auburn University – Montgomery**

**Journal Editor:**

**Gary Long, University of Mississippi**

## **At-Large Members**

Alabama:

**Fred Myers, West Alabama University**

**Stephen Parker, University of Montevallo**

**Geoff McIntyre, Troy University**

Mississippi:

**Elise Lake, University of Mississippi**

**Janis McCoy, Itawamba Community College**

**Steve Grice, Mississippi State University**

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