

Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association

FALL 2009

February 2010 A-MSA Meeting to be Held at Delta State University in Cleveland, Mississippi

The 2009 meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association (A-MSA) hosted at Jacksonville State University was highly successful. We look forward to the 2010 meeting to be held at Delta State University (DSU).

DSU is located in Cleveland, a town in the heart of the Mississippi Delta. DSU has more than 4,000 students, including those studying at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

The DSU Division of Social Sciences will host the conference. An interdisciplinary academic unit, the Division houses eight degree programs with undergraduate and graduate offerings. Courses are offered in Community Development, Geography, Paralegal Studies, Political Science, Social Justice and Criminology, Social Science Education, and Sociology.

The Division is well known for its focus on field experiences through community-based service learning and action research projects. It also provides students international travel opportunities.

Some A-MSA members may remember a previous meeting held at DSU under the leadership of Albert Nylander III.



The 2010 A-MSA meeting is scheduled to take place from February 18-19. The theme for the meeting is "Sense of Place and the Sociological Imagination." Meeting highlights will include:

- Pre-conference workshops on the morning of the 18th;
- Plenary presentations by Katie Kerstetter and John Green;
- Paper, panel and poster sessions offering the latest scholarship on research and teaching;
- Reception at the DSU Archives and Museum with refreshments and a photography exhibit;
- Awards banquet with a multi-media presentation exploring the intersections of power, place and research;
- Cultural experiences highlighting and celebrating the uniqueness of the Mississippi Delta and the region's importance to the world; and,
- The A-MSA business meeting.





*A-MSA
Past President
David LoConto at the
2009 meeting held on
the campus of
Jacksonville State
University*

A-MSA Member Updates

Annice Yarber (Auburn University) received tenure and was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor.

The edited volume *Focus on Single Parent Families: Past, Present, and Future* (edited by Annice Yarber and Paul Sharp) is now in production and is scheduled for publication in February 2010.

Dr. Robert Jenkot, formerly of the University of Alabama, has taken a position in the Department of Psychology and Sociology at Coastal

Carolina University. He wishes everyone well.

John Green (Delta State University) and Anna Kleiner (Southeastern Louisiana University) had their chapter entitled "Exploring Global Agri-food Politics and the Position of Limited Resource Producers in the United States" published in *The Politics of Globalization*, a Sage reader edited by Samir Dasgupta and Jan Nederveen.

Alex Takeuchi, Associate Professor of Sociology at the Uni-

versity of North Alabama, was recently selected as the recipient of one of UNA's most prestigious faculty awards, Academic Affairs Outstanding Research Award for 2009. He received this recognition for his continuous research over the past five years in the area of dyadic social interactions and relationships in marriage and family contexts. He continues to serve as a member of the Editorial Board of *Marriage and Family Review*.

A-MSA Online Sociological Review Requests Submissions

Gary L. Long, Editor of the *A-MSA Online Sociological Review*, wishes to remind members and readers about this online publication. He invites submissions from faculty and students for the Association's peer-reviewed journal. Submissions may be of an empirical or theoretical nature. Methodological diversity is appreciated. Papers submitted by students for the annual meeting competitions are automatically considered for possible publication. Students and faculty can submit articles in paper or electronic form to: Gary L. Long, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of MS, University, MS 38677, email: salong@olemiss.edu.

A-MSA Student Competitions

Each year the A-MSA sponsors paper and poster competitions for undergraduate and graduate students.

We welcome submissions from all students interested in sharing their work.

In addition to submitting your information through A-MSA website in response to the general call for papers, please

submit an abstract of your proposed paper and/or poster via attachment to Annice D. Yarber (ayarber@aum.edu) by December 15, 2009. Include the title of your presentation, the type of presentation, and author's name and affiliation. For paper competitions, full manuscripts are due for review by January 15, 2010.

Get Your Gender On! Request for Presenters at the 2010 A-MSA Meeting

The Gender Studies Group at Delta State University is requesting proposals for presentations of gender focused research at the A-MSA meetings.

The proposed session will be inclusive of all aspects of gender and of all areas of interest. Please send abstracts to Tiffany Guidry at tguidry@deltastate.edu.

“Sense of Place and the Sociological Imagination”
Annual Meeting of the
Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association

February 18-19, 2010
Delta State University
Cleveland, Mississippi

The theme for the 2010 annual meeting of the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association (A-MSA) is “Sense of Place and the Sociological Imagination.” The conference will include a variety of events and activities exploring the ways in which sociologists and other scholars conceptualize and utilize “place” in their theories, methods and analyses.

Submissions for the A-MSA meeting are invited on all topics, with formats including paper presentations, posters, panels and workshops.

Paper, poster, panel and workshop abstracts should be submitted through the A-MSA website (<http://www.a-msa.org/>) by December 15, 2009. Please include the title of the presentation, type of presentation, author names and affiliations, and an abstract (maximum of 300 words).

The Program Chair for the 2010 meeting is Deborah Moore, Director of Delta State University’s Center for Community and Economic Development.

For more information about the 2010 meeting, please email amsa.dsu.2010@gmail.com.

A-MSA Now Offers On-line Registration/Payment

<http://www.a-msa.org/>

“High tech” now describes the A-MSA conference registration and payment process.

For registration, simply fill out the appropriate forms on the A-MSA website (<http://www.a-msa.org/>). There is no special login or password needed.

For the first time, each registrant will be able to pay all fees online with PayPal using a credit or debit card.

Check and cash users: Follow the online registration process and choose payment by check or cash. You will complete a form and receive an order receipt that should be printed and bundled with your check or cash payment. You can mail payments to Carol Chenault, 417 Line Street NE, Decatur, AL 35601, or you can pay with check/cash when you arrive at the conference.

Delta State University Center for Community and Economic Development

Established in August 1994, the Center for Community and Economic Development (CCED) at Delta State University engages in teaching, outreach, and research programs that improve and enhance quality of life in the Mississippi Delta region. The stated mission of the Center is "Building and Empowering Relationships that strengthen Communities." Outreach and research efforts guided by the mission utilize, expand, and deepen the human resource base of the region while addressing critical community and economic development needs.

Since it was founded in 1994 by Jerry Robinson, Jr., the CCED has developed a broad portfolio of externally funded programs valued in the millions of dollars. As much as 80 percent of funds are reinvested in Delta communities.

Major programs that have been administered by the CCED include four AmeriCorps programs: America Reads Mississippi, Delta Reads Partnership, Mississippi Delta Service Corps and MDSC/ AmeriCorps*VISTA. Additional CCED programs are: Breast Education and Early-Detection Program, School-Based Asthma Management Program, Mississippi Delta Leaders Empowering Youth, and

the Youth Entrepreneurial Program.



Deborah Moore, Director of the DSU Center for Community & Economic Development, is Program Chair for the 2010 A-MSA Meeting

Evaluation and research projects conducted through the Institute for Community-Based Research and the Delta Rural Poll inform CCED initiatives. They have achieved local, regional and national recognition.

Within the academic environment of the University, many of the students pursuing the M.S. degree in Community Development work with the CCED to engage in meaningful learning and action-based research while training to be the Delta's future leaders and community development professionals.

Training and technical assistance are major components of all CCED programs and support efforts offered to communities and their organizations. The CCED's scope of work supports grassroots initiatives, including: community-based and faith-based programs, school and educational improvement, political leadership, and local government capacity building.

For additional information, you may contact CCED Director Deborah Moore at 662-846-4358 or by e-mail at: dmoore@deltastate.edu.



The DSU Center for Community & Economic Development is housed in Cleveland, MS, in the rehabilitated building of an old grocery store. The CCED serves an 18-county region in the northwest region of the state.

Speakers for the 2010 A-MSA Meeting

Katie Kerstetter, M.P.P.



*Katie Kerstetter,
Plenary Speaker*

Katie Kerstetter will be a Plenary Speaker for the 2010 A-MSA meeting.

Her presentation is tentatively titled, "From the Outside Looking In: Reflections on the Impact of 'Outsider' Researchers on the Community-Based Research Process."

Katie is a Policy Analyst at the DC Fiscal Policy Institute in Washington, DC, where she provides research and budget analysis to nonprofit organizations, policy makers, and members of the public. Her work

focuses on strengthening the District's social and economic safety net programs and ensuring that the voices of low-income residents are included in the policy process.

Katie also serves as a Research Fellow at the Institute for Community-Based Research at Delta State University, where she most recently published a policy brief concerning insurance coverage in the Mississippi Delta, drawing on data from the Delta Rural Poll.

Prior to joining DCFPI, Katie served as an AmeriCorps*VISTA member at the Institute for Community-Based Research and taught third grade in Greenville, MS.

Katie holds a Master of Public Policy degree and a B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland.

John J. Green, Ph.D.

John J. Green will deliver the A-MSA Presidential Address at this year's meeting.

John is Associate Professor of Sociology and Community Development at Delta State University, where he also serves as Interim Chair of the Division of Social Sciences and Acting Chair of the Department of History.

With a passion for teaching social research, John works with students and faculty from a variety of universities to engage with community organizations on real-world research projects.

Through the Institute for Community-Based Research, John is joined by nonprofit organizations, foundations and partners at several in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities in ongoing development of an interdisciplinary network to connect communities and their organizations with researchers.

In his talk entitled "Who Counts Reality and Why It Counts," John will start his presentation

from a comment made by John Gaventa at the 2008 meeting of the Rural Sociological Society addressing the use and misuse of research in development efforts. John Green will argue that proponents of community-based research should work with people and organizations at the grassroots level on quantitative research as well as qualitative projects. He maintains that not addressing quantified knowledge leaves people vulnerable to disempowering characterizations of the places where they live, work and play.

John holds a Ph.D. in Rural Sociology from the University of Missouri-Columbia. He obtained the M.S. in Sociology and B.A. in Political Science from Mississippi State University. John regularly teaches a broad range of courses, including quantitative research and statistics.



*John J. Green,
A-MSA President*

Research in Action: A-MSA Member Studies Non-Urgent Use of Hospital Emergency Departments in the Mississippi Delta



A-MSA member

Carley Jefcoat is currently a Research Fellow with the Delta State University Institute for Community-Based Research

Overcrowding due to “non-urgent” use is an increasing problem at many hospital emergency departments (ED) across the United States. Patients are seeking care from emergency departments when services could be sought from more medically appropriate and less costly sources.

According to Ronald Andersen’s Health Care Utilization Model, patients’ need for health care, enabling/impeding factors, and their predisposing characteristics all play important roles in determining how and where individuals access health care. Unfortunately, there is a gap in our knowledge, because much of the

existing information about inappropriate use of emergency departments comes from secondary data and urban settings.

To help fill the knowledge gap, Carley Jefcoat focused her attention on a more rural, low-income setting. She used primary data collected through face-to-face interviews with patients seeking care for non-urgent situations from hospital emergency departments. She led a survey of a sample of 548 patients that was conducted in the fall of 2008 and spring of 2009.

Descriptive, bivariate and multivariate statistical analyses were interpreted using Andersen’s conceptual model. Particular attention was directed toward identifying the obstacles people face and whether they influence the likelihood of having a medical home (regular source of primary health care services), and the extent to which these factors shape people’s behaviors prior to visiting the ED.

The majority of survey respondents (79 percent) reported having a regular health care provider, but a smaller portion (22 percent) of respondents said they had sought care from a provider before visiting the hospital

emergency department. Logistic regression found that having chronic health conditions, relying on Medicaid/Medicare, being aware of community health centers, and having a high school degree were significantly associated with whether a person reported having a medical home.

Having a high school degree and employment status were associated with whether a respondent had sought care from a different health care provider prior to visiting the ED. Because of limited options for accessing health care, especially after regular business hours, employed respondents were less likely than their counterparts to have sought care prior to visiting the ED.

Results from this study are being used to inform development of pilot programs by community health centers and hospitals. It is part of an initiative to expand people’s access to and use of appropriate and affordable primary health care services.

This study was conducted through the Delta State University Institute for Community-Based Research. Support was provided by the Mississippi Primary Health Care Association through a grant from the Delta Health Alliance. The results presented here do not necessarily reflect the views of these organizations.

Make Your Hotel Reservations for the 2010 A-MSA Meeting in Cleveland, MS

The following hotels are recommended. Blocks of rooms have been reserved specifically for the A-MSA meeting. The rooms are available for booking until January 15, 2010. However, space is limited, so make your reservations soon. When reserving your room, mention your affiliation with the Delta State University / A-MSA meeting.

Holiday Inn (\$99.75 per night)
808 N Davis Ave
Cleveland, MS 38732
(800) 345-8082

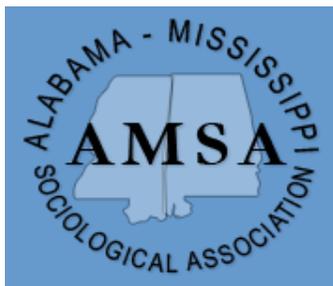
Comfort Inn (\$74.95 per night)
807 N Davis Ave
Cleveland, MS 38732
866) 969-8065

Listed below are alternative hotels. Room blocks have not been reserved at these hotels.

Days Inn
900 S Davis Ave
Cleveland, MS 38732
(662) 846-6649

Hampton Inn
912 N Davis Ave
Cleveland, MS 38732
(662) 846-2914

Econolodge
721 N Davis Ave
Cleveland, MS 38732
(662) 843-4060



Visit the New and Improved A-MSA Website:

<http://www.a-msa.org/>

Officers for the Alabama-Mississippi Sociological Association

Dr. John J. Green
President



Dr. Geoffrey L. McIntyre
President-Elect



Dr. Carol Chenault
Treasurer



Dr. Alma Calix
Secretary



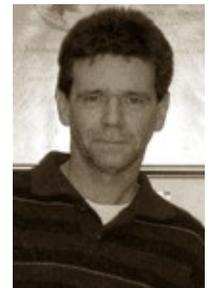
Dr. Tom Kersen
Communications Director



Dr. Don Bogie
Archivist



Dr. Gary Long
Online Journal Editor



Dr. Tina Herbert Deshotels
Member-at-Large (AL)



Dr. Stephen Parker
Member-at-Large (AL)



Dr. Annice J. Yarber
Member-at-Large (AL)



Dr. Steven Grice
Member-at-Large (MS)



Dr. Tyrone Jackson
Member-at-Large (MS)

Dr. Stacy Ruth
Member-at-Large (MS)