Welcome

2011 Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium (Oct 31 - Nov 1)

Equal Education? Evaluating the American Promise

 is the theme for the 20th Annual Tennessee Undergraduate Social Science Symposium to be held Monday, October 31st and Tuesday, November 1st, 2011 in the James Union Building at Middle Tennessee State University. All events are open to the public and free of charge.

The symposium will open Monday, November 1st, with student research paper presentations that will continue throughout the two-day symposium. Although Equal Education? Evaluating the American Promise is the central Symposium theme, papers are accepted on any social topic. Papers presented by students will include a variety of topics, for example, immigration, social problems, social and cultural theory, hate crimes, race and ethnicity, Appalachian studies, health, family, and work, and experiential learning in archaeological studies and study abroad. Given the relevance of this year's theme the event is expected to draw over 1,000 participants from MTSU and across the state.

Call for Papers:

Undergraduate students with interests in social inquiry are invited to present papers at this year's Symposium. If you are interested in presenting, please submit the title of your paper, your university affiliation, along with your contact information (email and mailing address) by mail or email to: Dr. Brian Hinote at bhinote@mtsu.edu or Dr. Meredith Dye at mdye@mtsu.edu no later than Monday, October 24th. If you wish to submit a hard copy of the information, please mail it by that date to: Middle Tennessee State University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Dr. Brian Hinote, PO Box 10, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

Student Paper Competition:

We are also pleased to announce the Symposium's Fourth Annual Student Paper Competition. To enter the paper competition, please submit complete papers to Dr. Brian Hinote at bhinote@mtsu.edu no later than Wednesday, October 26th. If you wish to submit a hard copy, please mail it by that date to: Middle Tennessee State University, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Dr. Brian Hinote, PO Box 10, Murfreesboro, TN 37132.

This year's film will be Waiting for Superman

The film will be shown on Monday, October 31st in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building at 1:50 p.m.

Filmmaker Davis Guggenheim reminds us that education "statistics" have names: Anthony, Francisco, Bianca, Daisy, and Emily, whose stories make up the engrossing foundation of WAITING FOR SUPERMAN. As he follows a handful of promising kids through a system that inhibits, rather than encourages, academic growth, Guggenheim undertakes an exhaustive review of public education, surveying "drop-out factories" and "academic sinkholes," methodically dissecting the system and its seemingly intractable problems.

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Sonya Douglass Horsford -- Tuesday, Nov 1st at 11:20 am

Dr. Sonya Douglass Horsford is a senior resident scholar of education with The Lincy Institute at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas where she focuses on the history of education in the U.S., politics of education, and role of schools in society. She currently serves as principal investigator of a Spencer Foundation funded research study entitled, "Losing in Las Vegas: Educational Inequality, Ideology, and Reform in the West,"; which examines the social and community forces and school-district led reforms that have sought to provide greater educational equality and opportunity in Southern Nevada. Dr. Horsford's research has been featured in journals such as Educational Administration Quarterly, Urban Education, The Urban Review, and Journal of Negro Education. She is editor of the book, New Perspectives in Educational Leadership: Exploring Social, Political, and Community Contexts and Meaning (Peter Lang, 2010) and author of Learning in a Burning House: Educational Inequality, Ideology, and (Dis)Integration (Teachers College Press, 2011). Most recently, Dr. Horsford was awarded the 2011 Emerging Scholar Award by Division A of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), the premier international organization for advancing education research and appointed to serve as Division A Program Chair for the 2012 AERA Annual Meeting to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia. Given her commitment to connecting theory and research with policy and practice, Dr. Horsford also serves as founder and director of the Las Vegas Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools Program® - a summer literacy program designed to provide engaging and meaningful educational opportunities for children, youth, and families in historically underserved communities in Southern Nevada. Her greatest accomplishments and reason for her work are her three children: Benjamin, Bryson, and Ella. She raises them with her husband, Senate Majority Leader Steven Horsford, in their hometown of Las Vegas.

Brian Bordainick -- Tuesday, Nov 1st at 6:00 pm

As part of Teach for America, Brian Bordainick traveled to New Orleans in the Summer of 2007 expecting to join the faculty at a local High School. What he found when he showed up on his first day was a parking lot full of trailers and the flooded skeleton of what was once the local high school. With trailers for classrooms, no money, no supplies, no desks and no experience, Brian rose to the occasion and became both a full time teacher and the athletic director at G. W. Carver High School in the 9th ward of New Orleans. He was the youngest athletic director in the history of the city. With few resources and in spite of unimaginable odds, Brian was able to resurrect Carver's once-renowned athletic program in a community where only 37% of the residents have returned since Hurricane Katrina. Bolstered by the support of the Carver community, Brian founded 9th Ward Field of Dreams to support the construction of a state-of-the-art football field and track on Carver's campus in the upper 9th ward. In just two short years, the organization achieved the impossible and reached its goal of raising $1.85 million in funding for the facility. They are slated to break ground in October 2011. His firm belief in the transformative power of youth athletics has shaped his career and the lives of those around him. Brian enjoys building community support for his mission and hopes that his hard work will inspire others to believe in their own power to create change.

Thematic Panel: Educational Inequality: Identifying Problems and Creating Solutions

The panel will be on Monday, October 31st at 5:00 pm in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building following the film, Waiting for Superman.Dr. Jackie Eller, Professor of Sociology, will be moderating the discussion titled:

Educational Inequality: Identifying Problems and Creating Solutions.

For more information on the panel, please contact Dr. Brian Hinote at bhinote@mtsu.edu, by phone at 615-494-7914 or Dr. Meredith Dye at mdye@mtsu.edu, by phone at 615-898-2690.

Senior Scholar Lecture: Dr. Larry Isaac

This year we are excited to have Dr. Larry Isaac as our Senior Scholar. He will speak at 11:30 on Monday, October 31st, in the Tennessee Room of the James Union Building. The public is welcome to attend. For more information on the Senior Scholar Lecture, please contact Dr. Gretchen Webber at gwebber@mtsu.edu or by phone at 615-898-2519.

LARRY W. ISAAC grew up in a blue-collar, working-class family in northern Ohio where he gained experience in and appreciation for racial justice, antiwar, and labor movements in Cleveland and Akron, experiences which shaped his career as a sociologist. He received his Ph.D. from Indiana University (Bloomington) in 1979 and subsequently joined the faculty at Florida State University. He became the Mildred & Claude Pepper Distinguished Professor of

Sociology until 2004 and then accepted a position at Vanderbilt University. He is currently the Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of Sociology (endowed chair) and Professor of American Studies at Vanderbilt University where he teaches courses in: social movements, political sociology, methods for analyzing historical processes of social change, historical sociology of Gilded Age America, and social change and movements in the Sixties. Over the years, his research has been funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, American Sociological Association, National Science Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. His research agenda is currently focused in three main arenas: (1) private elite militias as class/status formation, gender repair, and state-building in Gilded Age America; (2) the early Nashville civil rights movement; and (3) the relationship between social movements and production of cultural genres (visual and literary forms). His recently published "Movements, Aesthetics, and Markets in Literary Change: Making the American Labor Problem Novel,"; published in the American Sociological Review (December 2009), received two American Sociological Association awards--the "Clifford Geertz Prize"; for the best article in the sociology of culture, and the "Distinguished Scholarly Article Award"; for the best article in the sociology of labor movements, as well as the Chancellor's Award for Research at Vanderbilt, 2011. Larry is currently working on a book with Vanderbilt colleagues Dan Cornfield (Sociology), Dennis Dickerson (History), and James M. Lawson, Jr. entitled Out of the Workshops and into the Streets: The Nashville Nonviolent Movement for Civil Rights. He is also past president of the Southern Sociological Society, current editor of the American Sociological Review, and the Southern Sociological Society's 2011"Distinguished Lectureship Scholar.";

We would like to thank our generous sponsors at MTSU for their support: College of Liberal Arts; Department of Sociology and Anthropology; Distinguished Lectures Series; College of Graduate Studies; Honors College; McNair; Forensic Institute for Research and Education; College of Education; Middle Tennessee Anthropology Society; Sociology Club and Student Activity Fees. For information please contact Connie Huddleston (chudd@mtsu.edu), Coordinator for the College of Liberal Arts or 494-7914 for the Directors of this year's program Dr. Brian Hinote and Dr. Meredith Dye, Department of Sociology and Anthropology.