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# ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

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## Schedule of Events

**Friday, August 28, 2020**

1:30pm Check-In/Orientation

2:00pm Advisory Board Meeting

Concurrent Sessions

- **Session I – Allies & Blazers: The Women Who Integrated UA Greek Life**
  - Moderator: Ross Green (Public Affairs and Strategic Communications Consultant, Kearns & West)
  - Kevyn Armstrong-Wright (Assistant Federal Public Defender)
  - Caitlyn McTier (UA Student)
  - Caroline Bechtel (Technical Program Manager, Plaid)
  
- **Session II – Coping in Times of Crisis: Your Mental Wellbeing**
  - Abby Horton (Clinical Instructor, Capstone College of Nursing)
  
- **Session III – The Next Generation of Civil Rights Leaders: High Schoolers Confront Legacies of Racial Discrimination**
  - Dr. John Giggie (UA Associate Professor of History/African American Studies, and Director, Summersell Center for the Study of the South)
  - Margaret Lawson (UA Graduate Student)
  - Delphia McGraw (Student, Spelman College)
  - Noa Jordan (Student, Howard University)
  - Jashon Griffin, (Student, Central High School)
  - Brandon Walton (Student, Central High School)
  
- **Session IV – Managing a Pandemic within a Pandemic**
  - Catherine Alexander-Wright (Associate Vice President of Domestic Violence and Supportive Services, YWCA Central Alabama)

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## Friday, August 28, 2020 (Continued)

3:00pm Concurrent Sessions

- **Session V – Judge Frank Johnson's Role Upholding the Constitution**
  - Hon. W. Keith Watkins (Senior Judge, U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama)
  
- **Session VI – Keeping Inherent Bias Out of Decision Making**
  - Abigail Morrow (Assistant General Counsel, Staffmark)
  
- **Session VII – Community-based Alternatives to Prison in Alabama**
  - Leah Nelson (Research Director, Alabama Appleseed)
  - Dana Sweeney (Organizer, Alabama Appleseed)
  
- **Session VIII – Weaponizing One's Whiteness (for Good): Proactive Allyship**
  - Moderator: Phillips Thomas Hornbuckle (Director of Intercultural Student Life & Global Programming, York College of Pennsylvania)
  - Connie Ray Stockham (Shareholder, Stockham, Cooper, & Potts)
  - Robyn Hammontree (Senior Instructional Designer, UA College of Continuing Studies and Owner, Hammontree Design)
  - Dr. Lane McLelland (Director, UA Crossroads Community Engagement Center)

4:15pm Don and Barbara “Bobbie” Siegal Scholarship Presentation

4:30pm Opening Speaker

**Dr. Selwyn Vickers, UAB Senior Vice President of Medicine/Dean, School of Medicine**  
*Gloria and John L. Blackburn Academic Symposium*

5:45pm Pinning of 2020 Fellows

6:00pm Coffee and Conversations

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**Saturday, August 29, 2020**

8:30am Check-In/Orientation

9:00am Concurrent Sessions

- **Session IX – Public Response to COVID-19**
  - Hon. Tommy Battle (Mayor, City of Huntsville)
  - Hon. Jo Bonner (Chief of Staff, Governor of Alabama)
  
- **Session X – Covering Politics in a Time of Crisis**
  - Moderator: John Hammontree (Managing Producer, Reckon by AL.com)
  - Elaina Plott (National Political Reporter, The New York Times)
  - Kaitlan Collins (White House Correspondent, CNN)
  - Victor Luckerson (Journalist and Author)
  
- **Session XI – Race Relations 2020: The Conversation...**
  - Terry Lamar (Director of Equity and Educational Initiatives, Hoover City Schools)
  
- **Session XII – The Resilient Leader: Taking Care of Yourself so You Can Take Care of Others**
  - James I. Owens, Jr. (Author, Speaker, and Consultant)
  
- **Session XIII – Leading in Uncomfortable Spaces: Navigating the Downsides to Being a Minority Leader**
  - Moderator: Jade Hill (Manager, Three Daughters Beauty Supply)
  - Akiesha Anderson (Policy Director, Alabama Appleseed)
  - Sehar Ezez (Treasury Coordinator, Hudson Homes Management)
  - Jilisa Milton (Fellow, Equal Justice Works)

10:15am Networking Hour

10:45am Concurrent Sessions

- **Session XIV – Leading on Racial Equity amid Social Unrest**
  - Hon. Randall Woodfin (Mayor, City of Birmingham)
  - Rich Bielen (President and CEO, Protective Life Corporation)
  - Rev. Dr. Robert Turner (Pastor, Vernon A.M.E. Church)

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# ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

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**Saturday, August 29, 2020 (Continued)**

- **Session XV – The Fight for the Noblest Democracy: Women's Suffrage in Alabama**
  - Jenna Bedsole (Shareholder, Baker Donelson)
  
- **Session XVI – Student Leadership During a Time of Crisis**
  - Victor Luckerson (Journalist and Author)
  - Phillips Thomas Hornbuckle (Director of Intercultural Student Life & Global Programming, York College of Pennsylvania)
  - Amanda Bennett (Ph.D. Candidate in Literature, Duke University)
  - Sean Hudson (Director of Research and Strategic Planning, Harry S. Truman College)
  - Greg Foster (Owner, Foster Law Firm)
  
- **Session XVII – Lessons Learned about Public Health Communication during a Pandemic from Front Line Healthcare Workers**
  - Dr. Koushik Kasanagottu (Internal Medicine Physician, The Johns Hopkins Hospital)
  - Matthew Kiszla (UAB Medical Student)
  - Dr. Cathy Skinner (UA Associate Professor, Family Medicine Obstetrics)
  
- **Session XVIII – The Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History and Reconciliation Foundation**
  - Dr. Scott Bridges (UA Professor Emeritus and Co-President of the Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History and Reconciliation Foundation)
  - Tim Lewis (Co-Chair of the Tuscaloosa Civil Rights History and Reconciliation Foundation, Chief Innovation Officer of the Equal Justice Initiative, Chief Experience Officer of The Gateway)
  - Danny Steele (Co-Owner of Van Hoose and Steele Funeral Home)

11:45am Closing Speaker

**Derrick Johnson, President/CEO, NAACP**

*Gloria and John L. Blackburn Academic Symposium*