
ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM



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)

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 Leadership in a Time of COVID-19**
 - Hon. Robert Aderholt (U. S. Representative, AL-4th Congressional District)
 - 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/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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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 and CEO, NAACP

Gloria and John L. Blackburn Academic Symposium