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BURT JONES  
**RURAL COMMUNITY  
EXPERIENCE**

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**<sup>\*</sup> | Division of  
Student Life  
Blackburn Institute

# Fall 2019 Travel Experience

*Alabama's Eastern Black Belt  
(Barbour, Bullock, Macon and Russell Counties)*







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## 2019 Travel and Meeting Itinerary

### Wednesday, October 30

- 12:00pm Meet at Blackburn Suite
- 12:30pm Depart Tuscaloosa for Union Springs**
- 3:15pm Session I – Agricultural Production at Bonnie Plants with Stan Cope (President/CEO) and Sidney Phelps (Director of eCommerce)
- 4:45pm Session II – Tour of the Bullock County Courthouse Historic District at the Red Door Theatre with Lynn Jinks (Attorney/Partner of Jinks, Crow and Dickson, P. C.), Midge Putnam (Executive Director, Tourism Council of Bullock County), and Mayor Saint Thomas (Union Springs)
- 6:30pm Session III – Literacy in Bullock County at Pizzaz by Nazz with Dr. Christopher Blair (Superintendent, Bullock County Schools) and Patricia Butts (Director, Lee County Literacy Coalition)
- 7:30pm Dinner at Pizzaz by Nazz
- 8:30pm Depart Union Springs for Eufaula**
- 9:30pm Hotel Check-in
- 10:00pm Reflections and Overview of Thursday

### Thursday, October 31

- 7:30am Breakfast at Hotel
- 8:30am Depart Hotel
- 8:45am Session IV – Online Schools at Eufaula City Board of Education
- 10:00am Session V – A Student-Led Movement for a School-Sponsored Prom at Eufaula City Board of Education with Otis Hill (Vice President) and James Samuel (Chief for Congressional Affairs, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency)
- 11:30am Session VI – Tri-State Water Wars at Eufaula/Barber County Chamber of Commerce with Bobby Moore (Operations Project Manager ACF Rivers Project, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers)
- 12:30pm Lunch at Eufaula/Barber County Chamber of Commerce
- 1:30pm Session VII – Historical and Architectural Tours of Eufaula with Sandra Rudderman Gullledge, Mike Hammrick, Glen Kasper, and Ashley Martin (President, Azalea Ventures)
- 3:30pm Hotel Check-In
- 4:00pm Session VIII – Lake Eufaula at Lakepoint State Park and Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge with Odell Banks (Southeast District Supervisor, Alabama State Parks), John Earle (Manager, Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge), and Tasha Simon (Natural Resources Planner, Alabama State Parks)
- 6:00pm Dinner at The Water's Edge Restaurant
- 7:30pm Reflections and Overview of Friday



## Friday, November 1

7:00am	Breakfast at Hotel
<b>8:00am</b>	<b>Depart Eufaula for Holy Trinity (Transition to Eastern Time)</b>
9:30am ET (8:30am CT)	Session IX – Catholic Ministries and Social Services at St. Joseph’s Parish Rowell Guevarra (Church Administrator) and Fr. David Hamm (Pastor)
<b>10:45am ET (9:45am CT)</b>	<b>Depart Holy Trinity for Phenix City</b>
11:15am ET (10:15am CT)	Session X – Intercommunity Relations Panel with Mayor F. L. “Bubba” Copeland (Smiths Station), Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson III (Columbus Consolidated Government), Mayor Eddie Lowe (Phenix City), and Commissioner Peggy Martin (Chair, Russell County Commission) at Phenix City Housing Authority
12:45pm ET (11:45am CT)	Lunch at Phenix City Housing Authority
2:00pm ET (1:00pm CT)	Session XI – Riverfront Redevelopment at Phenix City Housing Authority with Shaun Culligan (Economic Development Manager, Phenix City), Mary Mayrose (Executive Director), and Kathy Ninas (Regional Director of Development, Troy University)
3:30pm ET (2:30pm CT)	Session XII – Russell County Foster Care at Hampton Inn-Phenix City with Brady Butler (Independent Living Coordinator, Russell County Department of Human Resources), Heidi Grohman (Program Manager, Russell County Department of Human Resources) and Jessica Taylor (Executive Director, Project Greene Light)
4:45pm ET (3:45pm CT)	Session XIII – Sin City at Hampton Inn-Phenix City with E. D. Helton (Chief of Staff, Columbus State University)
6:00pm ET (5:00pm CT)	Hotel Check-In
7:00pm ET (6:00pm CT)	Dinner at 13 <sup>th</sup> Street Barbeque
8:30pm ET (7:30pm CT)	Reflections and Overview of Friday

## Saturday, November 2

8:00am ET (7:00am CT)	Breakfast at Hotel
<b>9:00am ET (8:00am CT)</b>	<b>Depart For Tuskegee (Transition to Central Time)</b>
9:00am	Session XIV – Rural Education at Macon County Career and Technical Center with Dr. Jacqueline Brooks (Superintendent, Macon County Schools)
10:30am	Session XV – Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site with Vester Marable (Park Ranger)
12:30pm	Lunch at Skyway Club
2:00pm	Session XVI – Civil Rights at the Tuskegee Human Rights & Multicultural Center with Fred Gray (President)
4:00pm	Session XVII – The Legacy Museum at Tuskegee University with Dr. Jontyle Robinson (Curator) and Nina Hylton (President, Bioethics Honor Society)
5:30pm	Reflections and Post-Trip Assessment
6:30pm	Dinner with Tuskegee University Students at Dorothy’s
<b>8:30pm</b>	<b>Depart from Tuskegee for Tuscaloosa</b>
11:00pm	Arrive at Blackburn Institute Office



## *Optional Hiking Itinerary*

### **Saturday, November 2**

8:30pm Depart for Hotel

9:30pm Hotel Check-In

### **Sunday, November 3**

7:30am Breakfast at Hotel

8:30am Depart Hotel

9:00am Hiking at the Talladega National Forest

**12:00pm Depart Tuskegee for Tuscaloosa (Lunch en route)**

3:00pm Arrive at Blackburn Institute Office



# Union Springs



Union Springs is the county seat of Bullock County. The city was settled by white settlers after the Creek Indian Removal and officially incorporated in 1844. The area's geography features 27 natural springs, leading to the name. The area originally relied on agriculture and cotton production. Former plantations have since been converted to hunting preserves, a major attraction for tourists. The city hosts annual field trials for hunting dogs between October and March.

Union Springs is home to many historic buildings, including the Bullock County Courthouse, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The town square features a life-size bronze statue of an English pointer. According to a 2012 report published by County Health Rankings, Bullock County has the highest illiteracy rate in Alabama at 34.2% compared to the state average of 14.8%.



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 3,980

**Racial Composition:** 71.8% African American, 12.9% White, 0.2% Native American, 0.4% Asian, 1.1% Pacific Islander, 12.8% from other races, 0.8% from two or more races, and 17.0% Hispanic or Latino of any race

**Median Age:** 30.5

**County:** Bullock

**Random Trivia:** Eddie Kendricks, co-founder of the musical group The Temptations was born in Union Springs.





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## Session I – Union Springs

Below are biographies of the panelists for Session I, discussing large scale agricultural industries in rural Alabama.

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### Stan Cope

Stan Cope has been CEO of Bonnie Plants, Inc. for 10 years. Prior to that he was COO for two years. He has over 50 years with the company and plans to retire in 2020. Stan's grandparents, Livingston and Bonnie Paulk, started the company as Bonnie Plant Farm in 1918.

Cope is an alumnus of Auburn University (B.S. in Business, 1981).

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### Sidney Phelps

Sidney Phelps is the Director of eCommerce for Bonnie Plants, Inc. He began his career with Bonnie in 2000; starting off potting plants, watering, and doing general greenhouse labor. Sidney later became a Sales Rep, an Assistant Station Manager, and a Distribution Manager. He loves to cook using Bonnie's herbs in his recipes and enjoys playing guitar, singing, lake activities, and college football.





UNION SPRINGS, Ala. -- Bonnie Plants, Inc., the largest producer of vegetable and herb plants in North America, today announced that President and CEO, Stan Cope, has decided to retire after 51 years of valued service. Mike Sutterer, formerly the Senior Vice President and General Manager, Gardens Business, at Scotts Miracle-Gro, has been appointed to the position of President, effective April 1, 2019, with Cope remaining as CEO through December 2019.

Cope, the grandson of Bonnie Plants' founders, Livingston and Bonnie Paulk, led the company for over 10 years and worked within the company for more than five decades. During his tenure, the company delivered consistent top and bottom line growth ahead of its markets. Cope's tireless, inspired leadership and innumerable contributions secured Bonnie as an industry leader, well positioned for sustainable growth and continued success.

"It has been my honor to lead Bonnie over the last 10 years. Throughout this time, I have been humbled by the commitment and hard work of our people and their passion for creating a truly purpose-driven company. I am extremely grateful to my Bonnie family, as they have worked passionately to help build our long-term success and sustainable future.

"I congratulate Mike on his appointment and look forward to working with him during the transition period. Having worked closely with Mike for the past 3 years, I am highly confident that under his leadership, Bonnie will continue to grow and prosper long into the future. This is the right time for me personally and for the company to transition to the next generation of leadership. Bonnie is well positioned for future success with an extraordinary team, solid foundation and exciting growth prospects," said Cope.

Mike Sutterer assumed the role of President, on April 1, 2019, and will become CEO upon Cope's retirement in December. Sutterer worked with Scotts Miracle-Gro for 19 years in several key marketing leadership roles, including leading the Miracle-Gro brand. His deep understanding and experience in the gardening industry, makes him an outstanding choice. He is a strong, dynamic and a values-driven, natural leader with an impressive history of delivering consistent, high-quality performance. Sutterer brings with him a focus on marketing innovation – including championing two major 2019 new product introductions that will revolutionize both Organic and Indoor gardening. Sutterer's vision, drive and performance focus, combined with his commitment to serving the best long-term interests of Bonnie, will materially strengthen the company moving forward.

"I am humbled and excited by this opportunity to lead Bonnie Plants. The Bonnie brand has been around for over 100 years and there aren't many brands that have that type of rich and deep heritage. My #1 focus is to steward and care for the Bonnie brand – while we grow and evolve to ensure it is strong for the next 100 years. We're going to look to innovate in all areas of our business to continue to stay relevant to the next generation of gardeners.

"I'd like to extend my sincere gratitude to Stan for his remarkable leadership, unique and authentic character and look forward to working closely with him during the transition," said Sutterer.

### **About Bonnie Plants**

Headquartered in Union Springs, Alabama, Bonnie Plants is the largest and only national supplier and producer of vegetable and herbs in the United States. Bonnie grows more than 250 varieties of quality vegetable and herb plants for gardeners across the country, with 70+ growing stations, serving the 48 contiguous states. Established in 1918 by Livingston and Bonnie Paulk, the company has remained in touch with its roots for more than 100 years.



Bonnie Plants are available at garden retailers, throughout the United States and in regions of Canada. For more information please visit [www.bonnieplants.com](http://www.bonnieplants.com).

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/bonnie-plants-inc-announcement-stan-cope-president-retires-mike-sutterer-appointed-as-successor-300827993.html>

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Alabama third grader wins award after growing colossal 30-pound cabbage

*Shyra Sherfield | WSFA*

*March 18, 2019*

Reeltown, AL - A student at Reeltown Elementary School is the Alabama winner of Bonnie Plant's third grade cabbage program.

Tripp Wilson grew a whopping 30.1-pound cabbage. He will receive a \$1,000 savings bond from Bonnie Plants to go toward his education.

This year more than 1 million third graders participated in the national program and gained hands-on gardening experience while growing their cabbages, according to Joan Casanova of Bonnie Plants.

"Over the course of the past 15 years, the Bonnie Plants Cabbage Program has proved to be an exciting, successful and worth-while experience that children, teachers, parents and grandparents across the country have embraced," said Stan Cope, President of Bonnie Plants. "We're certainly extremely proud of our Alabama State Winner: Tripp Wilson! We are grateful to have the opportunity to provide our youth with this enjoyable and enriching opportunity and engage their interest in the art and joy of gardening."

Each year Bonnie Plants sends over-sized cabbage plants to third grade classrooms whose teachers have registered for the program, according to Casanova. The teacher in the participating classes chooses the "best" cabbage in the class based on size and appearance. Those students are then entered in a statewide drawing.

More than 400 schools in Alabama participated in the program this year.

If you are a teacher and would like to register your students to participate in the Bonnie Plants program, visit [www.bonnieplants.com](http://www.bonnieplants.com).

<https://www.wsfa.com/2019/03/18/alabama-third-grader-wins-award-colossal-pound-cabbage/>



An Alabama wholesaler linked to a destructive tomato blight that turned up in Northeastern big box retail stores has pulled its plants from New York and five other states, the Times Union in Albany, N.Y. reports.

Company officials at Bonnie Plants, however, harbor doubts that the disease, known as late blight, originated in its greenhouses, which extend into 38 states, company General Manager Dennis Thomas says.

Pulling plants out of Home Depot, Lowe's and Walmart stores in New York, New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts since news of the blight broke last week has probably cost the company \$1 million in lost sales, Thomas said.

In New York, diseased tomato seedlings were found for sale in a Scotia retailer, according to Cornell Cooperative Extension, with reports also coming in from Tompkins County, Plattsburgh and Malone.

"We are not irresponsible," said Thomas, of the 91-year-old company, which has 62 greenhouse complexes. Inspections by state officials of company greenhouses in Pennsylvania and New Jersey found no evidence of the blight, according to records provided.

Bonnie Plants did not knowingly ship any infected tomato plants, and it questioned whether the blight may have occurred after plants arrived at Northeast retailers, Thomas said. The company shipped most of its tomatoes to the region during April and May, he said.

Cornell University had linked the blight to shipments from a company greenhouse in Georgia. That greenhouse uses organic methods, which do not include the pesticides that can keep blight at bay, says Thomas. He said "less than 1 percent" of the company's tomato shipments this spring came from that greenhouse.

Thomas says the company expects to have its plants reappear on store shelves in the Northeast by the end of the month, when it will ship herbs and cold-weather plants.

<https://www.greenhousegrower.com/uncategorized/disease-costs-bonnie-plants-1m-in-recall/>



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## Session II – Union Springs

Below are the biographies of speakers for Session II, a tour of the Bullock County Courthouse Historic District in Union Springs and a discussion on rural arts and tourism at the Red Door Theatre, a former Episcopal church.

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### Lynn Jinks

Lynn W. Jinks, III has been practicing law for 39 years. He has offices in Montgomery, AL and Union Springs, AL but his practice is nationwide. He is licensed to practice law in Alabama, Louisiana, New York, and the District of Columbia. Lynn's family has a long history of law related activities. His great grandfather practiced law in Bullock and Montgomery counties around the beginning of the 20th century. His grandfather served Bullock County as Probate Judge and later as Circuit Clerk and his father practiced law in Alabama for over 50 years. Lynn was admitted to the practice of law in 1974. He has been active in community affairs. He has served on the Board of the Alabama Civil Justice Foundation. Lynn has been recognized for his outstanding community service by the Bullock County Voters League. He has served on the Board of the Montgomery Symphony Orchestra. Lynn is currently serving on the Executive Committee and Board of the Alabama Partnership for Children, an organization that has received national recognition for its promotion of early childhood education. Lynn is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Union Springs, Alabama, where he serves as church council chairperson. He has been married for forty-one years to Charlotte Vaughan Jinks.



Jinks is an alumnus of the University of Alabama (B.A. and J.D.).



## **Midge Putnam**

Midge Putnam loves Bullock County and her career choices prove just that. She is employed as the Executive Director of the Tourism Council of Bullock County, the District Area Coordinator for the Bullock County Soil and Water District and the Spanish teacher at Conecuh Springs Christian School. Midge has promoted her county with the Tourism Council of Bullock County since 2005 by working directly with the Red Door Theatre, local Field Trials events, beautification efforts which include PALS (People Against a Littered State), the City of Union Springs and the County Commission. Her work as Coordinator for the Soil and Water District allows her to work closely with county agencies such as the Bullock County Extension and 4-H Development offices while supporting local land owners. Midge's love of the arts is expressed through her work at Conecuh Springs Christian School where she exposes children of all ages to visual and performing arts and teaches them Spanish as a second language. She is the Chair of Bullock County's Distinguished Young Women program, a troop leader for the Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama, a member of Kappa Delta Sorority and a member of the Twentieth Century Book Club. Midge is also active at First Baptist Church where she serves as the Sunday School teacher for 1st-6th grades. She and her husband Kelly live in Union Springs with their two children, Lott and Laura Lee.



Putnam holds a bachelor's from Troy University in journalism and public relations, with a minor in Spanish.

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## **Mayor Saint Thomas**

Saint T. Thomas, Jr. was born in Midway where he received his elementary and high school education. He is a member of Person Chapel AME Church in Midway, where he served on the Board of Stewards. Saint is married to Naomi G. Thomas. They have three children: Timothy T. Thomas, Tania R. Thomas, Nikki R. Thomas Raden (Eugene). Saint served in the United States Army for two years and was honorably discharged as Sergeant E-5. His professional experience includes five years as an elementary school teacher and 37 years as a junior high principal, middle school principal, assistant superintendent and superintendent. Saint lends his expertise to many volunteer and service organizations and boards. He served as Councilman for eight years and is now serving his second term as Mayor of Union Springs, Alabama.



Mayor Thomas holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Alabama State University, and a supervision certification from Florida A&M University.



*W*elcome you to tour the city and sites of interest in the surrounding countryside. As you see the city rise before you today, we hope you will enjoy reflecting on its past and consider its promise for the future.

## Bullock County Courthouse Historic District

**1 Red Door Theatre (1909)** • Corner of Prairie St. and Blackmon Ave. Formerly known as the Trinity Episcopal Church, it features German art stained glass. Year-round productions are held at the theatre. For more information please call (334) 738-8687.

**2 Old City Cemetery and Log Cabin** • **Museum • Behind the Red Door Theatre** B.J. Baldwin and wife Nancy, original Union Springs settlers, are buried here. A monument honors the Confederate dead, though both Union and Confederate soldiers share a final resting place in the shade of pine trees. The rustic log cabin is authentically furnished and features a stone fireplace and chimney. Open by appointment, call (334) 738-2720.

**3 Union Springs Carnegie Library (1911-1912)** • 103 N. Prairie St. One of the few remaining in Alabama. Has original furnishings, chandeliers and mahogany woodwork. Features classic Revival-Bauhaus arts design.

**4 First Baptist Church • 105 N. Prairie St.**

Established in 1849. The church's 1859 woodframe structure remains in place beneath the 1903 brick facade. It has a slave gallery.

**5 Josephine Cultural Arts Building (1880)** • 130 N. Prairie St.

This three-story building was built by R.A. Fleming and named in honor of his wife. A metal doorway threshold reads, "Josephine 1880."

*Turn left on W. Hardaway Ave. and travel two blocks to view Kennon St. homes.*

**6 Shanks-Short House (The**

**Homestead) (1860)** • 117 Kennon St.

Built by Richard W.H. Kennon. For many years it was known as the Paule place.

**7 Foster-Chapman House (Laurel Hill)**

(1852-1856) • 201 Kennon St.

Greek Revival frame house with Gothic arched trim. Built by Dr. Sterling Foster.

**8 Field Trial Monument • Prairie St. and E. Hardaway Ave.**

Pays tribute to Bullock County's unexcelled upland game country, bird dogs, and the men and women who participate in the sport of field trialing. It was erected in 1996 on the 75th anniversary of the annual National Amateur Free-for-All Shooting Dog Championship.

**9 Union Spring Pharmacy (1871)** • 204 N. Prairie St.

The Stewart family offers tourists a free cup of coffee and looks forward to friendly conversation within their Mom & Pop drug store.

**10 Union Springs City Hall (1896)** • 212 N. Prairie St.

Storehouses occupied the first floor and the Eley Opera House utilized the second floor. Remodeled for first National Bank in 1906. City Hall acquired the building in 2003.

**15 Caldwell-Siddiq House (1903)** • 108 Hunter Ave. Color scheme is reminiscent of the "Painted Ladies" Victorian homes in San Francisco, California.

**16 Hunter-Anderson House • 109 Hunter Ave.**

Original two rooms and bath date from 1843.

## Picturesque Settings

*Heading south on Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (Highway 29), turn left on Chummenuggee Ave. Turn around at St. Paul's Church and find a parking spot so you can walk and get a feel for the historic neighborhood.*

**17 Saint Paul's United Methodist Church (1903)** • Chummenuggee Ave. Beautiful white woodframe building. Steeple tower above entrance.

**18 Norman-Alman House (1909-1910)** • 210 Chummenuggee Ave.

This stately turn-of-the-century classic revival style home has a cantilevered eyebrow window dormer and a veranda embellished that is supported by corinthian columns.

**19 McCaslin-Branch House (1858)** • 204 Chummenuggee Ave.

It was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in 1996.

**20 Rainer-Perrin House (1902)** • 202 Chummenuggee Ave.

S.P. Rainer moved his old residence to build this two-story frame home.

**21 Smith-Lykaney House (1842-43)** • 201 Chummenuggee Ave.

One story Greek Revival style. Built by H.H. Smith, one of the most prominent promoters of Union Springs. Notice double doors at the entrance with an overhead transom.

**22 Mosley-Perkins House (1897)** • 116 Chummenuggee Ave.

Built by J.M. Mosley, the iron fence was added the following year. This home features several stained glass windows. Notice the stables in back.

**23 Culver-Ayers House • 111 Chummenuggee**

Remodeled in 1892 by Maj. Isaac E. Culver, state commissioner of agriculture. Later owned and remodelled by John W. Wright, builder of Union Springs and Northern Railroad.

*Leave a U-turn at the end of the street and head back to Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. (Highway 29). Head south to E. Hardaway Ave.*

**24 Presbyterian Church (1883)** • 203 E. Hardaway Ave.

Majestic lines, steeply pitched slate roof and beautiful stained glass. Folding seats came from one of the local opera houses. A Philadelphia architect developed this design based on a Congregational Church in Pennsylvania.

**25 Cope-Parsley House (1903)** • 305 Hardaway Ave.

This Queen Anne is enhanced with turret finials and small leaded glass windows on the tower. It has a large veranda. Built by E.H. Cope.

*From E. Hardaway turn right on Cooper St. and after viewing Wayman Chapel turn right on Blackmon Ave.*

**26 Wayman Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (1882)** • 107 Cooper St. Gothic Revival houses of worship. It was remodelled after the mother church in Coffee County.

**27 Durr-Mauri House (1900's)** • 101 N. Powell St.

One-story Queen Anne frame structure with a truncated hip roof and gable dormers. Notice the wood curved design on the pedimented gable of the veranda shed roof.

*Continue on Blackmon Ave. Turn left at the intersection of S. Prairie St.*

**28 Gachet-Branch-Berry House (1871)** • 104 S. Prairie St.

Typical Greek Revival. The first shot of the Civil War was fired on the U.S. ship "Star of the West" by order of Col. John Luther Branch in command of the Confederate forces on Morris Island, Charleston Harbor on January 8, 1861. Branch is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery.

**29 Prater-Downs House (1870's)** • 109 S. Prairie St.

Boyhood home of Gov. Jelks who served from 1901-1907. The second story mansard roof was added in 1885.

**30 Rainer-Muhammad House (1874)** • 201 S. Prairie St.

Built by William Rainer for his bride, Cella Baldwin. Italianate influence and rough stucco exterior finish.

**31 Frazer-Ansley (1890)** • 206 S. Prairie St.

A variation of George F. Barber's "Cottage Sovereign #2" plan in a catalog of house designs by Barber publications.

*Turn left Blackmon Ave.*

**32 First Missionary Baptist Church (1891)** • 108 Holcombe Ave.

The old frame building on this site was destroyed by a storm. The brick building that replaced it retains the style of the original.

**33 Coal Chute on the old Montgomery & Eufaula Railroad (1925)** This towering concrete structure dominates its surrounding landscape.

*Turn left on to Powell Street.*

**34 Keller-Tatum House (1903-1904)** • 204 S. Powell St.

The most active ghost in town occupies this one-and-a-half story Queen Anne home.

**35 Rainer-Lewis House (1904)** • 202 S. Powell Street.

Neo-classical revival with portico, romantic second story balcony. Stained glass window on interior stairway. Has a column on the back.

*Turn right on Scale Ave. then take a left on M.L.K. Jr. (Highway 29).*

**36 Rosenstahl House (1906) (Rosedale)** • 107 S. M.L.K. Jr. Blvd. Gracious Queen Anne structure. Large veranda, palladian touches and arched glass windows. Home of Helen Clare Smith, famous stage star.

**37 Pierce-Maxwell House (1907)** • M.L.K. Blvd.



**18 Bullock County Courthouse (1871-72) • 411 N. Prairie St.**  
The courthouse, a Second Empire style, features historic pictures of Union Springs. Removed in 1992.

**12 1897 Paully Jail Museum • Behind the 200 block of Prairie St.**  
The cellways and trap door may still be seen on the third floor. Open by appointment. (334) 738-2720.

**13 Jones, Crow and Jackson Law Offices (1887) • 219 N. Prairie St.**  
Outstanding restoration of the former Bullock County Bank building. The western Union offices were upstairs.

**12 Main Drug & Gifts • 302 N. Prairie St.**  
First brick building on Prairie Street. It was built by Cpt. W.C. Wilton in 1867 as a mercantile store with a saloon in the basement. Free cup of coffee for tourists. Visit the Gift Shop.

**15 Union Springs City Police Station (1888) • 303 N. Prairie St.**  
Former location of City Hall. The third floor housed the Masonic Lodge. Notice the masonic emblem above the front entrance. The bottom floor was used to house fire engines.

### North Prairie-Chunneugee Ridge Residences

*This ridge area was the site of the early settlement and what is now downtown was the backside. Includes antebellum and late-of-the-century houses.*

**16 Mabson-Wadsworth House (1885) • 402 N. Prairie St.**  
Italianate town house style with bracketed eaves.

**17 Ellis-Maswell House (1891) • 406 N. Prairie St.**  
A steeply pitched gabled tin roof, conical window caps and Eastlake trim.

**18 Pierce-Jinks House (1931) • 329 N. Prairie St.**  
An elaborate structure was built for a daughter's wedding, but she eloped instead.

**19 Blount-Daniel House (The Cellars) (1940) • 401 N. Prairie St.**  
Reproduction of a Georgian manor house. The architect was Kennon Perry and the house was built by the family of Winona "Red" Blount, philanthropist and former U.S. Postmaster General.

**20 Singleton-Whyte House (The Victoria) (1895) • 403 N. Prairie St.**  
Delicate gingerbread, spindlework and ornate windows. Queen Anne style. Built by Judge A.E. Singleton. Has original wood shingles on the turret.

**21 Mabson-Anderson House (1857) • 420 N. Prairie St.**  
Greek Revival home with Victorian characteristics. Tall, boxed columns.

**22 Stakely-Smithart House • 504 N. Prairie St.**  
Original structure dates from 1873. The second floor was added in 1913.

**23 Moore-Maxwell House (1890's) • 103 Viles Ave.**  
Carpenter's Gothic style with gingerbread and intricate wood balustrade.

**24 Edwards-Sinker House (1911) • 101 Miles Ave.**  
Pyramidal roof with boxed columns. Here at the end of the road it's easy to see how the Prairie Street houses are built along Chunneugee Ridge.

*The highest point in Union Springs is at 103 Miles St., the Miles-Carson home. A bronze marker in the road marks the spot. Turn and remove one block of Prairie St., then turn left on Hunter Ave.*

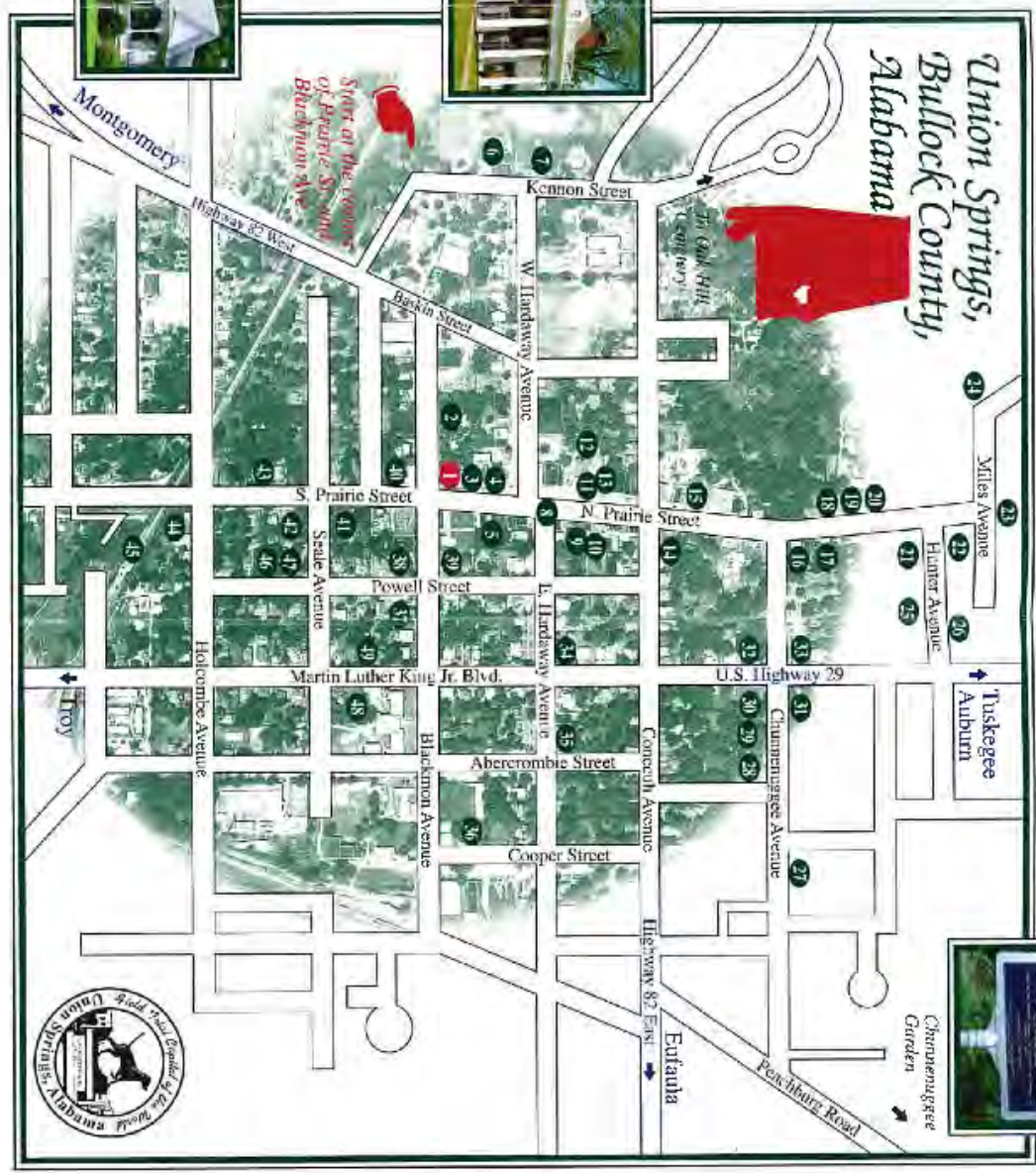


Prunus yunnan. It has a balcony.

### South Powell-South Prairie Area Residences

**25 First United Methodist Church (1903, 1904) • 101 S. Powell St.**  
A Methodist congregation built on this site in 1861. The present Gothic Revival building showcases the finest example of German art glass windows in the South.

**30 Methodist Parsonage, Eley House (1905) • 102 Powell St.**  
Queen Anne design features Eastlake spindlework. Tower with conical roof, encircling veranda has spindle-type balustrade.



columns separate reception hall and parlor. Original red pine wainscoting and oak mantels.

*The tour ends here, but you may want to visit other interesting sites in the country, such as Chunneugee Garden, one of the first public gardens in the United States. Many buildings are not open daily, but can be toured by appointment. We will be happy to help you plan guided tours that include several stops. Call (334) 738-8687.*





## The Red Door Theatre

Trinity Episcopal Church (c. 1909) was designed by architect Richard Kennon Perry when he was a high school senior in Union Springs. This small brick church featured Gothic arches, dual front entrances, and German art stained glass appropriate for the interior plans popular in Southern churches built between 1880 and 1920.

In 2001 the Tourism Council of Bullock County decided that a theatrical production of an original drama indigenous to the community could be the catalyst to attract tourists to Union Springs. Efforts of this group led to the identification of *Consecrated People*, a collection of monologues compiled by Bullock County native son, Wade Hall, as the vehicle by which to accomplish this goal. Playwright Ty Adams, a native of nearby Clayton who was living in New York, was commissioned to adapt the book for stage, and it was initially presented at Troy University in February 2002.

The Tourism Council knew that a home for *Consecrated People* was needed. In 2002, the City of Union Springs acquired Trinity Church from the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama. The City swapped some vacant land generously donated by three local businessmen for the unused church. The Service of Desanctification of a Consecrated Building was performed on August 28, 2002, when the Diocese removed the lectern and bishop's chair and placed them in other churches. The Tourism Council envisioned locating a theatre in this beautiful, old vacant structure. The City agreed to lease the building to the Tourism Council, and plans were made to produce *Consecrated People* in the sanctuary of the old church, newly named by the Tourism Council as the Red Door Theatre in honor of the red doors that traditionally signified "sanctuary" in many churches including the former Trinity Episcopal Church.

The TCBC had retained the rights to *Consecrated People*, and a reading of it was presented at the Red Door Theatre in July 2003. By December, the Drama Project Group had been formed from members of the Tourism Council and others in the community. No one in the group had any previous experience in theatre, marketing, publicity, or any other areas associated with the production of a play, but they all had a passion for the community and the arts. A grant was received from the Alabama State Council on the Arts to help produce the play. A director was selected, tasks assigned, and work began. Originally planned only as a play, *Consecrated People* evolved into *Consecrated People...An Experience* which included a quilt exhibit in the town's original Carnegie Library, an exhibit of local artists' works presented at City Hall, an old-fashioned, seated dinner at the First Baptist Church, tours of a historic log cabin (c.1850) and Civil War cemetery, and overnight accommodations at a nearby hunting lodge. Townspeople and businesses were becoming involved! The results were unbelievable—the play was sold out, and it was an overwhelming success.

The next spring the production was expanded to two weekends, with more collateral events, and, much to the delight of audiences, air conditioning was installed in the Red Door Theatre! In 2007, it was designated by the Alabama Bureau of Tourism and Travel as one of the state's "50 Must See Cultural Arts Events." In 2008, the Tourism Council announced plans for the Red Door Theatre's first theatrical season, presenting four plays that were Southern in nature and setting. After a very successful inaugural year well-supported by its patrons, the RDT continued to present four Southern plays annually, and in 2019, will offer its 16<sup>th</sup> year of theatrical productions.



# Monument & Mural



The larger than life Field Trial Mural on the north side of the building located at 140 N. Prairie Street was dedicated on February 9, 2017.

It was commissioned by the Tourism Council of Bullock County with donations from field trial enthusiasts from all over the United States. This classic field trial scene was painted in downtown Union Springs by renowned muralist Wes Hardin and represents the competitive and social events that highlight Bullock County field trials.

## FOUR

On February 21, 1996, a life-size bronze statue of an English Pointer sculpted by Robert Weble was unveiled in Union Springs, Alabama. It pays tribute to Bullock County's unmatched upland hunting bird dogs and the Bullock County residents elected as members of the Field Trial Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, Tennessee.

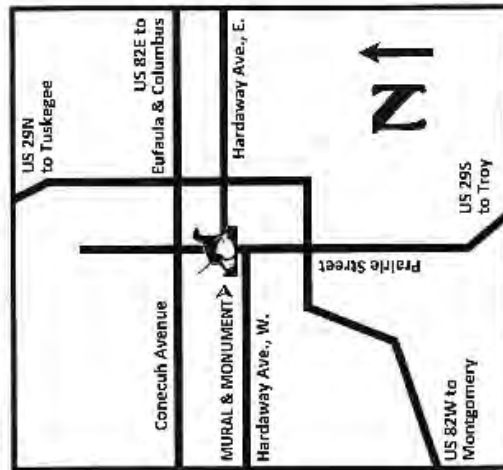
Located at the intersection of Prairie Street and Hardaway Avenue, the statue is situated atop an 8-foot tall granite pillar. The names of the twelve Bullock County men inducted into the Field Trial Hall of Fame are engraved on the south side of the monument. Donors' names, including memorials by family members, are engraved on the north side of the monument.

## UNION SPRINGS, ALABAMA

Union Springs, Alabama, is known as the "Bird Dog Field Trial Capital of the World." Pointing dog competitions, known as Field Trials, date back to the 1920s in Bullock County. The dogs run two at a time for a set amount of time. They are followed by their handlers, the judges, trial officials, and the gallery of spectators, who are all on horseback.

On February 22, 1950, the first National Shooting Dog Championship, an Amateur Free-for-All, was held at Sedgewick Plantation in Bullock County. This 14,000 acre quail hunting preserve was owned and developed by Lewis B. Maytag, a household name in washing machines and other appliances to this day. Sedgewick Plantation is still host to the National Amateur Free-for-All Championship and the National Open Shooting Dog Championship. Several other plantations in Bullock County also host field trials, including championships, from October through March.



### DISTANCE TO UNION SPRINGS FROM:

Atlanta	153 mi	244.8 km
Montgomery	32 mi	51.5 km
Birmingham	134 mi	214.4 km
Mobile	220 mi	352.0 km



**Sweet Home Alabama**  
www.AlabamaTravel.com

02/18 20,000  
Printed in USA



This year marks the fifteenth anniversary of the beginning of the Red Door Theatre. The Red Door Theatre is located right here in Union Springs. It is recognized as one of the most successful community theatres in the Country, yet many of our citizens don't know what goes on there and what it has accomplished.

The RDT puts on theatrical productions, sponsors workshops for children and youth and hosts special performances. In the fifteen years of its existence it has had forty nine major productions. Most of these were written by renowned playwrights and include many well-known plays such as "Driving Miss Daisy" and "Steel Magnolias." The RDT is now serving about 2500 theatre goers a year. It is estimated that over its lifetime there have been approximately 30,000 visitors. Most of these, about 75% come from out of town. Statistically, it is thought that for every dollar spent here by these visitors that money is multiplied seven times.

Each year the RDT now puts on both a children's workshop and a youth workshop. For most of these young people, this is their first introduction to the theatre. These workshops are led by notable theatre veterans such as Denise Gabriel and Kathryn Wood. At these workshops the children and youth learn about diction and movement, among other things. (As a trial lawyer with 44 years of experience I can tell you that is never too early to learn about diction and movement.)

In addition to the 49 major productions over the last fifteen years the RDT hosts several special performances each year. These include the Nat King Cole Story, the Marvelous Wonderettes, Ruby Cat Lawson's Roadhouse Lounge, the Sam Cook Tribute and Jason Petty's "The Lonesome Tour," which tells the story of Hank Williams.

Perhaps the most amazing thing about the RDT is its volunteers. All of the actors (most of whom are local) perform with no pay. This has given many of our citizens an opportunity to develop some remarkable acting skills. In addition there are about 50 local citizens who volunteer to work for each play, either at the theatre or at the dinner. Over the years there have been about 2400 contributions of volunteer work. This community has been overwhelming in its support of the RDT.

Congratulations to the RDT and all of the people of our community who have worked so hard to make it a success. What's behind the Red Door? Come and see for yourself.

[http://www.unionspringsherald.com/news/article\\_a13ec77a-f33c-11e8-aafc-4b8c53d33948.html](http://www.unionspringsherald.com/news/article_a13ec77a-f33c-11e8-aafc-4b8c53d33948.html)

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Alabama's historic Red Door Theater and the man buried beneath the floor

Kelly Kazeck | AL.com

October 2017

[https://www.al.com/living/2017/10/alabamas\\_historic\\_red\\_door\\_the.html](https://www.al.com/living/2017/10/alabamas_historic_red_door_the.html)

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Red Door Theatre

Tourism Council of Bullock County

<http://www.reddoortheatre.org/>



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# BURT JONES RURAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

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## Session III – Union Springs

Below are biographies of the speakers for Session III, exploring solutions to improve literacy in Bullock County. According to National Center for Education Statistics, its illiteracy rate of 34% (2003) is the highest in Alabama.

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### **Dr. Christopher Blair**

Dr. Christopher Blair has been the Superintendent of Bullock County Schools since December 2017. He has been working within education since 2008. Christopher's work experience includes Chief Academic Officer for Montgomery County Public Schools and Deputy Chief of School Leadership for Chicago Public Schools.

Dr. Blair received his B.A. from University of Alabama at Birmingham, his Masters of Education in both English Education and School Administration from Alabama State University, and his Doctor of Education from Nova Southeastern University.

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### **Patricia Butts**

Patricia Butts has over 20 years of experience in change management, public relations, strategic planning, program performance, staff development and education and training. Patricia's career has always been about service. After serving in the United States Army, she worked with military families, in the states and abroad, at Fleet and Family Support Centers in the Hampton Roads and Commander, Navy Installations Command in Washington, D.C. Her passion for civil rights and the history of culture in Alabama evolved into an opportunity with the National Park Service. Patricia helped promote awareness of and increased visitation at Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site, Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site and the Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail, while in her role as management analyst and public information officer. Her participation in the Selma to Montgomery's 50th Anniversary ignited a call for action. Volunteerism and advocacy were natural progressions. Patricia has shared her time and talent in leadership roles with Alabama Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Alabama Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA). Now with Lee County Literacy Coalition, Patricia is skilled in working in complex systems involving private sector, government, philanthropic organizations, community groups and educational institutions. She is excited about the new direction of the organization. Originally from Virginia, Patricia is pleased to call Alabama home. Ms. Butts was appointed by the board of directors on May 1, 2019.





Alabama's most educated county is Madison County. Its least educated county is Bullock County. How those two counties stack up nationwide is telling. The website Stacker used data from the 2012-2016 American Community Survey to determine education levels for every county in the U.S. You can see the full methodology [here](#).

In Madison County, 15.3 percent reported having a graduate or professional degree; 25.4 percent said they had a bachelor's degree. Slightly more than 6 percent said their highest level of educational attainment was 9th to 12th grade; only 2.9 percent said they had less than a ninth grade education.

Those figures were high enough to make Madison County the 151st most-educated county out of 3,141 included in the analysis. The most educated county in America was Falls Church in Virginia, where 43 percent of residents hold a graduate or professional degree.

Bullock County was on the opposite end of the spectrum. Only 5.4 percent of residents there reported having a graduate or professional degree and only 4.9 percent's highest level of educational attainment was a bachelor's degree. Twenty-six percent had a 9th to 12th grade education but no diploma; 7.6 percent have a less than ninth-grade education.

Bullock County ranked 3,067 out of 3,141 counties included in the analysis. Starr County, Texas was the least-educated county in America, with 2.8 percent having a graduate degree or professional degree and 6.5 holding a bachelor's degree. Almost 18 percent of residents reported having a 9th - 12th grade education but no diploma and 34 percent have a less than ninth grade education.

[https://www.al.com/news/2018/07/alabamas\\_most\\_and\\_least\\_educat.html](https://www.al.com/news/2018/07/alabamas_most_and_least_educat.html)

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Alabama Literacy Act proposes holding students back if they do not meet reading benchmarks by grade 3

Dothan Eagle

April 10, 2019

[https://www.dothaneagle.com/news/education/alabama-literacy-act-proposes-holding-students-back-if-they-do/article\\_1b96893a-5bcb-11e9-8d15-1bb509882afc.html](https://www.dothaneagle.com/news/education/alabama-literacy-act-proposes-holding-students-back-if-they-do/article_1b96893a-5bcb-11e9-8d15-1bb509882afc.html)

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LEA English Learners Plan

Bullock County Board of Education

2018-2019

<http://bullockcounty.schoolinsites.com/Download.asp?L=0&LMID=1184503&PN=DocumentUploads&DivisionID=3682&DepartmentID=29123&SubDepartmentID=&SubP=&Act=Download&T=1&I=718313>

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Migrant Plan

Bullock County Board of Education

School Year 2012-2013

<http://images.pcmac.org/Uploads/BullockCounty/BullockCounty/Departments/PagesLevel1/Documents/Migrant%20Plan%202012-2013.pdf>



# NATIONAL LITERACY MONTH

## DID YOU KNOW?

More than **36 million American adults** struggle to read, write, do math, and use technology above a third-grade level.

The U.S. mean literacy score was **below the international average**—ranking 16th out of 24 countries.

**Only 12%** of adults in the U.S. performed at the highest proficiency level on the literacy scale.

**Only 9%** of adults in the U.S. performed at the highest proficiency level on the numeracy scale.

**Only 6%** of adults in the U.S. and **8%** of adults under 35 in the U.S. performed at the highest proficiency level on the problem-solving/technology scale.

## OUR PROGRAMS

- One-to-One Tutoring
- GED Preparation
- Financial Literacy Workshops
- Computer Literacy Workshops
- Health Literacy Workshops

Services available at no-cost!



## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

- Volunteer
- Share Our Mission
- Donate

## OUR MISSION

The mission of the Lee County Literacy Coalition is to help adults learn to read, write, and use mathematics and computers at a level necessary to succeed and thrive in society.

## CONTACT US

 [www.leecountyliteracy.org](http://www.leecountyliteracy.org)

 334-705-0001

 [info@leecountyliteracy.org](mailto:info@leecountyliteracy.org)

Source: The recent Program for the International Assessment of Adult Literacy (PIAAC) examined the United States and 23 other industrialized countries and found.



# Eufaula



Officially incorporated in 1857, Eufaula is located in Barbour County, Alabama. Prior to settlement, the Eufaula area was occupied by three Creek Tribes. During the 19th century, a significant number of Jewish settlers migrated to Eufaula from neighboring states and Germany. Eufaula's geographic location and proximity to the Chattahoochee River made it an ideal shipping center for cargo bound for the Port of Apalachicola, most notably cotton. While cotton production continued during the reconstruction period, the Civil War had a profound impact on the area's industry and shipping. Clayton is the official county seat of Barbour County however, county business is divided between Clayton and Eufaula which also has its own courthouse.

The Seth Lore/ Irwington Historic District is the largest in East Alabama and the second largest in the state and includes the Eufaula First United Methodist Church and the Shorter Mansion. Eufaula is also home to the Walter F. George Lake (Lake Eufaula) and the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge. Abundant access to water and recreation areas has made Eufaula the Bass Fishing Capital of the World. Humminbird, a nationally recognized bass fishing depth finder company, was established in Eufaula in 1971.



## Quick Facts

**Population:** 13,137

**Racial Composition:** 51.0% White, 44.6% African American, 0.5% Native American, 0.2% Pacific Islander, 2.2% from other races, 0.9% from two or more races, and 4.3% Hispanic or Latino of any race.

**Median Age:** 38.9 years

**County:** Barbour

**Random Trivia:** Historic homes from the city of Eufaula were featured in the 2002 film *Sweet Home Alabama* starring Reese Witherspoon.

## Alabama





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# BURT JONES RURAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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## Session IV – Eufaula

Below are the biographies of the speakers for Session IV, discussing Alabama Virtual Academy at Eufaula City, a school in the Eufaula City School district, one of Alabama's first online schools, and one of the largest in the state. Alabama Virtual Academy is a tuition-free public school serving K-8 and high school students across Alabama.

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### **Dr. Melissa Larson**

Dr. Melissa Larson is a K-12th grade principal in the Eufaula City School system.



## Tuition-free online public school now open to students across state

Eufaula, Ala. -- Eufaula City Schools announced today that it has opened the Alabama Virtual Academy at Eufaula City Schools, a new statewide online public school. The school received approval from the Alabama Department of Education and is currently open to students across the state. It will serve students in grades K-2 the first year and expand to offer additional grades in subsequent years.

Alabama Virtual Academy at Eufaula City Schools is a tuition-free, full-time public school. The school starts on September 8 and is currently accepting new enrollments. Enrollment information for the school can be found at [www.k12.com/AL](http://www.k12.com/AL).

"Eufaula City Schools is excited to offer this innovative online public school to families in Alabama," said Eddie Tyler, Superintendent of Eufaula City Schools. "Technology is the future in education, and online schools are a proven educational model. Our online public school will provide families a high-quality option and give students the individualized instruction and support to succeed. Alabama Virtual Academy reflects our school system's mission of 'building our future on a tradition of excellence.'"

Students enrolled at Alabama Virtual Academy at Eufaula City Schools learn outside the traditional classroom and receive all their courses and participate in teacher-led instruction online. State-certified teachers work in close partnership with parents or other guardians who serve as learning coaches for the students.

Eufaula City Schools is partnering with K12 Inc., America's largest provider of K-12 online and blended school offerings. Alabama Virtual Academy at Eufaula City Schools will use K12's award-winning curriculum and academic services. K12-network schools have been recognized for improving student outcomes, closing achievement gaps, helping students succeed, and delivering new instructional tools and programs for teachers. K12 Inc. is accredited by AdvancED, the world's largest education community.

Recent legislation passed by the state legislature requires all Alabama school systems to adopt a plan to serve students through online schools by 2016-17. Eufaula City Schools is in a strong position to meet that requirement and expand education opportunities for students in its school system and across the state.

"Our partnership with K12 allows us to leverage the expertise and best practices used by a highly qualified team of experienced educators without impacting our system's existing educational programs or personnel," said Mr. Tyler. "We are also excited about the opportunity to work with K12 to expand the number of courses we can offer to the students in our school system."

### About Eufaula City Schools

Established in 1872, Eufaula City Schools is the oldest city school system in Alabama and is the heartbeat of a beautiful southeast Alabama city. Eufaula City Schools, serving approximately 2,800 students, is a progressive system providing many academic, enrichment and technical opportunities for students and teachers while maintaining the values and traditions of the best in public schools. More information can be found at [www.ecs.k12.al.us](http://www.ecs.k12.al.us).



## **About K12 Inc.**

K12 Inc. (NYSE: LRN) is a technology-based education company and the nation's largest provider for students in kindergarten through high school. K12 serves over 2,000 schools and school districts and has delivered more than four million courses over the past decade. K12 is a company of educators with the nation's largest network of K-12 online school teachers, providing instruction, academic services, and learning solutions to public schools and districts, traditional classrooms, blended school programs, and directly to families. More information can be found at [www.K12.com](http://www.K12.com).

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/eufaula-city-schools-partners-with-k12-inc-to-launch-new-alabama-virtual-academy-300136341.html>

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## **General FAQs**

*John Sharp | AL.com*

*December 9, 2018*

### **What grades are offered by the Alabama Virtual Academy at Eufaula City Schools?**

Alabama Virtual Academy at Eufaula City Schools will offer full-time enrollment for grades K–12. Students must be five years old on or before September 1 of their first year of enrollment.

### **What subjects will my child study?**

Language arts, math, science, history, art, and health/PE are the core courses. There are also other courses in the appropriate grade levels, such as music and world languages.

### **Does the program provide textbooks and other instructional materials?**

Yes, we provide all the textbooks and instructional materials needed to complete the program. These books and materials are sent to students directly.

### **Will my child have the same graduation opportunities as students in traditional public schools?**

Yes, we are a public school in Alabama, so students can earn a diploma issued by Alabama Virtual Academy at Eufaula City Schools based upon successful completion and mastery of course content.

### **Can my child work at his or her own pace?**

The K–12 program is self-paced and flexible within the parameters specified by state law.

### **How much time do students spend on the computer?**

We expect that students will spend no more than 30-40 percent of their time on the computer in the early grades. We believe in a balanced approach toward education. Computers help us provide you with effective assessment, planning, and time-management tools. Computers also act as powerful teaching tools that can motivate, stimulate, and inform children about the world around them. Computers do not, however, replace a solid education; rather, they help facilitate one. That's why we use a unique multimedia approach that also includes numerous print books, workbooks, and instructional materials.

### **Do you provide curriculum for special needs children?**

Depending on a child's IEP, we can tailor our curriculum to meet his or her needs. To discuss your child's needs with us, please contact our office, and we will put you in touch with our special education team.

### **Can you accommodate the accelerated learning needs of my gifted/talented child?**



The beauty of our program is that it is flexible enough to meet children where they are in any given subject and take them where they want to go. Our teachers will work directly with parents and students to ensure proper placement into the curriculum.

### **How do students interact socially?**

Throughout the year, students will be invited to participate in school outings, field trips (e.g., to historical sites, museums, zoos), picnics, and other social events. We expect local clusters of students and parents to get together on a regular basis in their areas. We are also exploring new ways to interact socially using the powerful reach of the Internet. With online discussions and forums, new types of communities can be formed that are based not on geography and place but on shared interests.

### **Will this program intrude into my home?**

There are no home visits as part of the program, unless you ask your teacher to come to your home. This school was created to help your child obtain a first-class education and serve your family's needs.

### **How do I enroll my student?**

Visit our How to Enroll section for information on enrolling your student in Alabama Virtual Academy at Eufaula City Schools.

<https://alva.k12.com/faqs/general.html>

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Online public schools raising questions in Alabama

*Trisha Powell Crain | AL.com*

*May 26, 2017*

[https://www.al.com/news/2017/05/questions\\_about\\_virtual\\_school.html](https://www.al.com/news/2017/05/questions_about_virtual_school.html)

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Alabama's virtual schools face lack of online access in rural areas

*John Sharp | AL.com*

*December 9, 2018*

<https://www.al.com/news/2018/12/alabamas-virtual-schools-face-lack-of-online-access-in-rural-areas.html>



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# BURT JONES RURAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

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Blackburn Institute

## Session V – Eufaula

Below are the biographies of the speakers for Session V, reflecting on the history of two local proms sponsored by independent social organizations, which were largely segregated based on race until 1991 when several Eufaula High School students led an effort toward a single, integrated, school-sponsored prom attracting national press.

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### Otis Hill

Otis Hill is a Eufaula native. The fifth of Eugene and Ruth's six children, he graduated in 1970 from Eufaula City Schools. Otis is a Deacon of First African Baptist Church and a retiree of the State of Alabama with 25 years of service under the Teacher's Retirement Program. He and is presently employed with the Quitman County (GA) Board of Education with 14 years of service. Otis has been married to Patricia Hill for 44 years, and is blessed with 3 children and 6 grandchildren. He is actively involved with several local organizations.



Hill holds an associate's of applied science from Wallace Community College (1984).

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### James Samuel

James A. Samuel, Jr. is a Tier-2 (2-Star General-equivalent) member of the Defense Intelligence Senior Executive Service (SES), currently serving as the Deputy Director of Communications for the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA). He represents NGA's interests within the Congress of the United States, across all media and with close coordination throughout the United States Intelligence Community and Department of Defense. Prior to this assignment, James was NGA's Chief of Congressional Affairs and led the 14,500-person agency. He and his team earned the 2017 Intelligence Community Legislative Affairs Team of the Year award from the U.S. Director of National Intelligence. With nearly 30 years of federal service, Mr. Samuel has solved numerous, national-level problems via positions of increasing responsibility, scope and complexity.



Samuel holds a B.S. in General Engineering from the USAF Academy, M.A. in Information Technology from Webster University, and has completed Executive Education at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.



# Education topic at 2000 meeting

By ANN S. SMITH  
Tribune staff writer

Professional educators and students discussed positive aspects of Eufaula's educational institutions as well as shortcomings at Thursday night's town meeting called by the Eufaula 2000 education focus committee.

Panelists praised the accomplishments of Eufaula's public and independent schools and said both sectors of education need more money. Students offered several suggestions for changes.

DR. LINDA Wilson, president of Sparks State Technical College, said "education and educators must change dramatically if students are to receive the education relevant to their needs."

"It is projected our students will have eight different careers," she said, so to meet demands of complex technology, we must turn out graduates who can manage a broad cluster of skills.

She also said jobs for the non-skilled worker will be almost non-existent.

DR. DAN Parker, city school superintendent, said, "additional revenue is going to be necessary in the very near future" if the schools are going to continue to serve the public well. He noted Eufaula's students perform above the state average.

On the negative side, he said the dropout rate is six percent which is about 46 students a year.

Other challenges he listed include more teenage pregnancy and more parental apathy. Also "one third of our students are from single parent families," he said.

"ALABAMA IS dead last in per pupil expenditures, and Eufaula ranks less than the state average in per pupil expenditure," he said. Parker said the economic index based on per capita income, the Eufaula school system ranks below the state level. Forty-six percent of the students get free lunches or supplemental money for lunch.

Parker said it will take a half million dollars to do some of the specific things the schools need such as: elementary school guidance counselors, increase number of school days from 17 to 180, reduce pupil-teacher ratio, strengthen computer application skills, strengthen reading and math skills and expand programs such as gifted tutorial, extended day and special education.

BOB RAUCHLE, headmaster at The Lakeside School, said independent education gives parents an alternative, and the availability of this choice is a very positive feature about Eufaula. He said the chamber of commerce tells him industrial prospects find this a very attractive feature of Eufaula.

"We must teach students the importance of thinking and reasoning and the concepts of good living," the headmaster said, adding he fears we are not teaching the difference in right and wrong or how to be honest with ourselves.

Even though Lakeside takes pride in its ACT scores, which averaged 25.4 this year, "this doesn't tell the true picture of what we are doing. The true test of an education is how well our students do when they leave us," he said.

RAUCHLE SAID independent education has problems similar to that of public education, particularly in the realm of funding. He pointed out independent education has no tax base for its funding, and that it is becoming more and more difficult financially to operate an independent school that maintains high standards.

FIVE STUDENTS talked from their perspectives.

Maxie Wright, a student at Sparks State, said she is receiving excellent training but the school needs a library that would offer resource material and a place to study. "Could the community work with Sparks to do this?" she asked.

Eufaula High student Grace Acosta expressed great pride in

her school, and had several suggestions. She said the school needs a better co-op program, which would offer students a chance for on-the-job experience.

She said education funding for salaries does not attract young people—of the 30 seniors in the honors program, not one plans to enter education.

JAMES SAMUELS, an EHS student who just received an appointment to the Air Force academy, praised Eufaula High as an excellent school, but said "there are a few bugs."

He suggested enlarging the curriculum. "The curriculum has a lock-in; students in the honors system rarely have the opportunity for electives" that would help us, he said.

Samuels also suggested in-school time for club activities and a counselor to help teens deal with their problems. He said the ROTC needs a rifle range.

Samuels also suggested the school have a prom. "EHS students participate in everything together, and a school sponsored prom would enable students to participate in this together, also," he said.

LAKESIDE senior Scott Brown said the school trips

Lakeside has offered and the emphasis on studying current events and history as it relates  
(Continued on page six)

Sure Sign of Spring: Segregated Proms at Alabama High School

AP | Tulsa World

May 5, 1990

[https://www.tulsaworld.com/archive/sure-sign-of-spring-segregated-proms-at-alabama-high-school/article\\_d4d72955-bb37-51b1-9950-5ecd4fea8773.html](https://www.tulsaworld.com/archive/sure-sign-of-spring-segregated-proms-at-alabama-high-school/article_d4d72955-bb37-51b1-9950-5ecd4fea8773.html)



# Parker: Proms 'not racial issue'

Responding to an Associated Press story about the separate high school proms attended by students at Eufaula High School, Eufaula City Schools Superintendent Dr. Dan Parker said Monday the prom question "is not a racial issue."

Parker said "proms and dances have not been part of school activities" since the mid-1960s. "Parents can assume some responsibility" he said, pointing out the school board has left the prom matter "up to students and parents."

**PARKER** lamented the nationwide circulation of the wire service story, and said his office had received calls from as far away as Minnesota.

"Our schools are doing a lot of good in a lot of areas and the school is not involved in dancing," he said Monday morning.

An Associated Press story circulated in Sunday editions of several state papers and evidently in other cities across the nation. Writer Jay Reeves describes Eufaula as an "Old South town of stately mansions

and Confederate flags on pickup trucks, where dogwood blossoms and racially segregated high school proms are sure signs of spring."

**REEVES WRITES** "There are no signs of racial division among the 760 students" and notes the president of the student body and the president of the 180-member senior class are black, "as are the basketball and football homecoming queens."

"But when it comes time to don formal gowns and rented tuxedos for the annual junior-senior affair, white students go to one dance, blacks to another. Both are sponsored by private groups, not the school itself," his story reads.

Reeves quoted Parker as saying, "Alcohol usually gets to be a problem. They leave, get drunk, and then come back. Why should the board or teachers

have to assume liability for that?"

**REEVES QUOTED** long-time school board member Dr. Billy Moorner as saying, "If whites don't want to have a prom with blacks, you can't make them, and vice versa." Moorner was also quoted as saying he doesn't "think it's been a big issue, but it might be now."

Reeves quoted board chairman Billy Houston as describing the two-prom situation as "a case of individual preference by the students."

The writer says that a group of black parents had been before the school board asking it to sponsor a joint prom.

He also says a white senior class member told him nearly all the seniors at a class meeting last fall cheered when class president James Samuel suggested holding a single prom.

**REEVES WRITES** that EHS Principal Wayne Fiquett said he has talked with students and faculty about holding an integrated prom in 1991, and that several teachers were "very willing" to chaperone.

According to Reeves' account, Parker and the school board are not conceding that student pressure will decide the issue of the school sponsoring a prom.

He quoted Parker as saying, "The senior class might be 90 percent in favor of going to the Bahamas, too, or abortion, or all coming to school naked, but that doesn't mean we're going to do it," he said. "Children learn from experiences, but the school system cannot provide all of life's experiences."

## Eufaula 2000

## EHS prom is historic and enjoyed

By TOM DAVIS  
Tribune news editor

Although local history was made Saturday night at the Eufaula High School prom, most students were probably more concerned with having a good time.

And that's just what EHS Principal Wayne Fiquett was hoping when the administration, faculty and students worked together for the first school-sponsored prom at EHS since the mid-1960s.

**THE PROM**, held Saturday night at the EHS Commons, was the first for EHS with both black and white students participating. In the past, two separate youth groups sponsored proms. This created, in effect, proms segregated by race.

The separate proms have drawn much national media exposure in the past. This year's junior-senior prom may not draw widespread coverage, but it sure pleased the school principal.

"Everything was great; we had no problems," Fiquett said Monday. "All the students seemed to have a good time."

Fiquett said chaperones had a list at the door to check to prevent gate-crashings. And once the students were inside, they had two options: Stay until midnight when the prom ended, or leave and forfeit the right to return to the dance.

About 250 students attended, Fiquett said.

One of those students, Senior Class President Sheri Schaffeld, said the students enjoyed the prom.

"At first some students didn't want to pay to attend the prom, but this was the first year and we had to raise money somehow," she said. Everybody seemed to have a great time and most students stayed until the band quit playing."

(Continued on page 15)

## EHS prom is a success

(Continued from page one)

The theme for the prom was "The Unchained Melody," she said, and the Commons was decorated with a garden, fountain, murals of dancers and the festive attitudes of enthusiastic teenagers.

"The decorations were simply great," Miss Schaffeld said. "You wouldn't have known it was the Commons."

**JUNIOR CLASS** President Kendra Guilford said the only complaint she heard was that the band "didn't play a wide variety of types of music." She added that next year more students will probably attend.

"Several students who did not attend were outside the school before it started," Miss Guilford said. "I think when they saw what a good time we were all having that they wished they had come."

Fiquett said next year's junior-senior prom will be sponsored by the junior class.







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## Session VI – Eufaula

Below are the biographies of the panelists for Session VI, discussing the Tri-State Water Wars concerning usage in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint waterway and the competing interests of Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

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### **Bobby Moore**

Robert “Bobby” Moore is Operations Project Manager of the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint Rivers Project for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. Previously, Bobby served as South Alabama’s Area Engineer.

Moore holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the United States Naval Academy (1982).



While water appears to be an abundant resource in the Southeast, droughts in the 1980's brought water abundance to the forefront, exposing the looming problem of supplying all desired uses in the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee- Flint (ACF) and Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa (ACT) River basins, particularly during low flow periods.

Water supply for municipal and industrial uses, hydropower, wildlife, recreation, irrigation, flood control and navigation all vie for this unite resource. Explosive growth in metro Atlanta near the upper portion of both basins has increased the population from one-half million people in 1950 to almost three million in 1990 and future growth projections predict that the trend will continue. Unfortunately, the limited water supply that these basins can provide has created a political firestorm for the three states that rely on them. Currently, Florida, Alabama and Georgia are locked in a courtroom controversy over the fair management of the waters that these states share.

### **Water Dispute History**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) constructed Buford Dam and created Lake Lanier fifty years ago. The Lake's authorized purpose was to provide flood control, hydropower and navigation. As time progressed, the booming population of metro Atlanta began to rely on Lake Lanier primarily for its water supply and the Corps began issuing interim contracts to municipal water supply providers without any evaluation under the National Environmental Policy Act (<http://www.chattahoochee.org/>) (NEPA). In 1989, the Corps released a report which recommended that a portion of the water being used for hydropower should be reallocated for water supply in the Atlanta region.

In response to this recommendation, the State of Alabama filed a lawsuit in 1990, challenging the Corps' reallocation plan. The lawsuit claimed that reallocating the water would favor Georgia's interests and that the Corps had violated NEPA by ignoring the environmental impacts of reallocating water on the downstream states. In 1990 Florida and Georgia both petitioned to intervene in the lawsuit.

To begin to solve the issue of water allocation, all three states and the Corps agreed to conduct a comprehensive study of all of the water issues affecting the ACF and ACT Basins with the goal of determining how to fairly allocate the water resources. The original Corps recommendation to reallocate water and all legal battles were halted during the time in which the studies were conducted. From the studies conducted, two compacts were created, one for each basin. The compacts were officially rationed by Congress in 1997, after they passed all three state legislatures, and created a structure that would allow the states to work together to determine the best method for managing the resources, while litigation remained on hold.



## **Advocating for the Long-Term Health of Two Major River Basins**

For decades, Georgia, Alabama, and Florida have been battling over the future allocation of water in two major river basins that cross their borders: Georgia and Alabama have been fighting over the Alabama-Coosa-Tallapoosa basin, and all three states are in conflict over the Apalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint basin.

The dispute has also involved several local, state and federal agencies, as well as numerous courts and mediators, and its ultimate outcome is one of the most important environmental issues facing the region today.

Each state has its own concerns about the proper allocation of water:

- Georgia: As the upstream user, Georgia wants to have enough water to continue growing, particularly in booming metro Atlanta where much of these river systems originate, in addition to supplying cities such as Columbus and heavy agricultural usage in the state's southwest corner. The problem is that Atlanta is not located in a water-rich area of the state, and it sprawls across the tops of multiple river systems that drain into both the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico.
- Alabama: Alabama is concerned that Atlanta's ever-increasing thirst for water will severely limit its own use of water for power generation, municipal supply, fisheries and other current and future needs.
- Florida: Florida wants enough freshwater to reach the Apalachicola Bay to sustain its multi-million dollar shellfish industry, which is under severe ecological stress resulting from low river flows and saltwater intrusion.

## **What's Being Done**

A leading member of the Tri-State Conservation Coalition, SELC is keeping close tabs on this long running dispute to ensure the final outcome protects water quality and quantity in the two basins. In the past, we have weighed in with courts and federal and state agencies urging them to take environmental needs into account.

SELC is currently monitoring the ongoing litigation over the river systems playing out in several federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court. We are also making sure that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does its part to operate crucial reservoirs in Georgia in a way that ensures healthy stream flows.

On the Coosa River in Alabama, we are participating in the relicensing process for seven Alabama Power dams to make sure that they maintain healthy water quality for recreation and aquatic life.

## **Developing a State Water Plan for Alabama**

Alabama remains the only state involved in the tristate water wars without a comprehensive water plan, putting the state at a severe disadvantage when competing with its neighbors for water without a plan to balance competing water needs within its own borders.

SELC joined forces with the Alabama Rivers Alliance, other citizen groups and water users to lobby the governor and legislators to develop a water plan that would strengthen Alabama's position for negotiating its water needs, while improving protections of its water resources for current and future generations.



In 2012, Governor Robert Bentley tasked a group of state agencies called the Alabama Water Agencies Working Group (AWAWG) to provide recommendations for an implementation plan, which were released in the Alabama Water Resources Management Policy Report in April 2014. SELC played a prominent role in the AWAWG stakeholder panels, using the opportunity to weigh in on policy issues and help develop potential legislation. Governor Kay Ivey disbanded the AWAWG in 2017 and reassigned the responsibility of developing a plan back to the Alabama Office of Water Resources and the Alabama Water Resources Commission, with instructions to review the report and develop a roadmap that includes recommendations on next steps, proposed timelines, and estimated funding needs to produce a water management plan. SELC and Alabama Rivers Alliance continue to advocate for a water plan that emphasizes conservation and efficiency and establishes flow standards to maintain healthy waterways, and urge Alabama residents to make their voices heard in support of a plan by visiting <https://alabamawaterplan.com>.

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Alabama needs a comprehensive water management plan now, not later

*Mitch Reid | Al.com*

*August 19, 2013*

[https://www.al.com/opinion/2013/08/alabama\\_needs\\_a\\_comprehensive.html](https://www.al.com/opinion/2013/08/alabama_needs_a_comprehensive.html)

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State Water Plan Stalled

*Charlie Ingram | businessalabama.com*

*May 21, 2018*

<https://businessalabama.com/state-water-plan-stalled/>



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## Session VII – Eufaula

Below are the biographies of the speakers for Session VII, leading historical and architectural tours in Eufaula.

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### **Sandra Rudderman Gulledge**

Sandra Rudderman Gulledge's family moved to Eufaula in the 1930's to start a business. During the Great Depression, the Ruddermans' multiple businesses were successful through their hard work and resolve. Sandra is the eldest daughter of Abe and Jennie. There were five children in all, three boys and two girls. The Ruddermans practiced Judaism in their home and traveled an hour every week to worship. At eighteen, Sandra fell in love with a Gentile and was disowned by her father. She moved to Clayton with her husband and had three daughters. Sandra and James ran a general store, gas station, laundry mat, and a few other businesses in the county seat. After fifty years of marriage, Sandra's husband James passed away in 2010 and she relocated to her parents' house on Randolph Avenue. Today Sandra lives with her daughter Lisa, also a widow. Every year they open their home to the Eufaula Pilgrimage.



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### **Mike Hamrick**

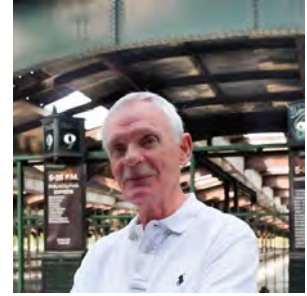
Mike Hamrick is an accomplished architect specializing in historic preservation and restoration. His past projects range from true historic preservation and adaptive re-use of buildings on the National Register of Historic Places to contemporary project design that seamlessly melds into historical communities and landscapes. Mike has mastered the complexities of historical and period-styled architecture and possesses a vast knowledge of historically appropriate detailing and construction methods. Among his renowned work is the American Village, a landmark educational facility inspired by some of America's most historic places. As the "Architect of the Village," Mike has designed and overseen construction of the entire campus, which features the National Veterans Shrine, patterned after Philadelphia's Carpenters Hall; the only full-scale replica in the country of the Oval Office; Washington Hall, replicating Mount Vernon; Colonial Chapel, modeled after Bruton Parish Church; a replica of Concord Bridge and many others. He has directed numerous seminars centered on Southern and regional architectural history as well as serving as a guest lecturer for universities, civic organizations and various institutions.





## Glenn Kasper

Glenn Kasper is a native of New Jersey. He and his wife, Beth moved to Eufaula in 2004. His background for the last 30 years was public relations, special events, fund raising and marketing. He has done events with The White House, the New Jersey Governor's Office and the International Olympic Committee. After moving to Eufaula, he became the executive director of the Eufaula Heritage Association for three and a half years and then was executive director of Eufaula/Barbour County United Way. For the last few years, Glenn has been 99% retired. He is fond of saying, "I wasn't born in the South, but I got here as soon as I could."



Glenn is an alumnus of Villanova University, with a master's degree in tourism marketing.

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## Ashley Martin

Ashley Martin is a native of Eufaula. She previously served as Curator of Minority History at the Museum of Mobile and Assistant Director of the Mobile Historic Preservation Society. From there Ashley moved to Brewton, and accepted the position of Children and Youth Director of First United Methodist Church and served as an adjunct history instructor at Jefferson Davis Community College. She returned home to Eufaula in 2007 and taught history at Eufaula High School and Wallace Community College. After touring England and Scotland, Ashley started her own tourism and catering business known as Azalea Ventures. Today she gives walking tours, driving tours, Southern cooking classes and caters events that highlight Eufaula's unique beauty and history. Ashley is married to West Martin, an alumni of the University of Alabama, and they have a three year old son Grant together. They live in an historic home in downtown Eufaula and travel the world in their free time.



Martin is an alumna of a Samford University (B.A. in History) and The University of Alabama at Birmingham (M.A. in History).



## Architectural Tour of Downtown

*Led by Mike Hamrick*

From Italianate Antebellum homes to Victorian cottages, history will come alive through vivid descriptions of the historic structures and fascinating stories of the builders themselves.

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## Antebellum Eufaula Tour

*Led by Glenn Kasper*

The first white settlers at Eufaula found themselves among Creek Indians in the 1820's. Once the Indian Removal Act was passed, settlers claimed the territory on the Chattahoochee River as their own. Eufaula began as an untamed village, but transitioned into a civilized town by the Civil War, with one of its most prominent citizens serving as Governor of Alabama. Come discover our town's history of murder, mayhem, and the gradual sophistication of Eufaula.

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## Eufaula's Jewish Heritage Tour

*Led by Sandra Rudderaman Gullede*



By the 1930's, many of the Jewish families in Eufaula moved to larger, more bustling cities. Sandra Rudderaman Gullede's family was the exception. By the time her parents, Abe and Jennie Rudderaman, moved to Eufaula, they were the minority. The Rudderamans learned to adapt to being one of the few Jewish families in the community at the time. The family took the economic and social risk by moving to this small, historic town on the Chattahoochee River. Today Sandra and her daughter Lisa are the only Jewish family in Eufaula. Sandra bought her parents' home in the 1990's and still lives there today. Students will tour her home and hear the unique history of Sandra's family.



## Reconstruction to Civil Rights in Eufaula, a Historical Tour

*Led by Ashley Martin*

As the Civil War ended, scalawags and carpetbaggers moved to Eufaula. In 1874 three election riots broke out between the Democrats and Republicans. From this election on, the Bourbon Democrats regained power in Barbour County and freed slaves began to lose their newly bestowed rights. Cotton was still king and freed slaves became sharecroppers throughout the county, which created an unending cycle of poverty. By 1888, cotton mills were finally built in Eufaula and they established a higher living standard for the black and white working class in town. Populism also spread throughout the state and their leader, Civil War hero Reuben Kolb, was from Eufaula. Kolb, whose uncles served as governor and U.S. Senator, unsuccessfully ran for governor of Alabama thrice. Kolb did make a name for himself as the state's commissioner of agriculture twice. Other Eufaula and Barbour County leaders emerged: Governor William Jelks, Governor B.B. Comer, Governor Chauncey Sparks, and Governor George Wallace. Alabama Governor Jelks helped create the racist Alabama Constitution of 1901. While other citizens like H.L. Dent attempted to stop the ratification of the new constitution. Race relations continued to plague Eufaula and Barbour County. Voting and land disputes in the 1950's that led to meetings with Martin Luther King, Jr, Fred Gray, and George Wallace. Today Eufaula has a unique story with an array of well-known state and national leaders.



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## Session VIII – Eufaula

Below are the biographies of the speakers for Session VIII, discussing the local impact of Lake Eufaula (Walter F. George Lake), meeting with leaders from Lakepoint State Park and touring the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge.

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### **John Earle**

John Earle has been the Manager of the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge since 2009. He serves in the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, an agency within the U. S. Department of the Interior. Previously John managed the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge in Needles, CA. In this role, he oversaw more than 6 million visitors annually, making it the most visited national wildlife refuge. John has experience at other national wildlife refuges including Okefenokee and Banks Lake in Georgia; Catahoula, Lake Ophelia and the Grand Cote in Louisiana; and Cibola in Arizona, where he also served as assistant manager.

Earle is an alumnus of the University of Georgia (B.S. and M.S. in Forest Resources).

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### **Odell Banks**

Odell Banks is the Southeast District Supervisor for the Alabama State Parks.

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### **Tasha Simon**

Tasha Simon is the Natural Resources Planner for the Alabama State Parks.



## Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge



Welcome to the 11,184 acre Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge. As you travel the Wingspread Wildlife Drive, you will naturally look for wildlife. The refuge is home to almost 300 species of birds, 40 mammal species and many more amphibians, reptiles and fishes. Our hope is that you will also gain an appreciation for the valuable habitat that supports animal life. The major habitat types you will encounter include woodlands, croplands, old fields, grasslands, edges, open water, and marsh lands. Each of these provide the food, cover and protection for a diversity of animal species.

Many opportunities await you on your visit to Eufaula Refuge and more than 500 other refuges nationwide. We are not only interested in wildlife and their habitat, but also providing you with a positive wildlife experience.



The wildlife drive has a seven-mile summer route that traverses all roads in the Upland and Houston Units. The route is reduced to five-miles during the winter to assure adequate waterfowl sanctuary. This added protection is important for female ducks to rest and store needed food reserves for their return to northern nesting grounds in late winter.



As you travel this route, feel free to linger at areas of interest, even stop and take a walk. You might use a spotting scope or binoculars to get that up-close view or you might want to take pictures. Whatever your experience, remember that the world of outdoors is dynamic; it is unpredictable. Each visitor's chances of observing that unforgettable sight is "time" dependent. It depends on the time of year, time of day and time spent looking.

## What you should learn from a drive through Eufaula Refuge



### Woodlands

Enjoy your visit and please plan a return visit with friends soon. In each of the broad habitat types you will encounter, there are certain species you are more likely to see. The following summary will describe these habitats and their related species.

There are about 2,700 acres of woodlands on the refuge. They consist of pine, hardwood and mixed pine/hardwood. All timber management is conducted with wildlife benefits in mind. Fire is a useful tool in managing pine habitat, but not in hardwoods or mixed hardwoods since fire kills hardwood species. Animal species a visitor might see in woodlands could include deer, squirrel, raccoons, armadillo, hawks, owls and songbirds.

### Croplands



The 300 acres of agricultural lands are fields for wildlife needs. Crops planted include corn, wheat, soybeans, sunflowers, and grain sorghum. Biologists monitor these fields to assure proper chemical use, crop rotation, and soil conservation. Wildlife species likely seen in summer could include deer, turkey, raccoons, armadillo, hawks, bluebirds, and other songbirds. Some winter species added to this list would be sandhill cranes, ducks and geese.

### Old Fields

Several hundred acres of former agricultural fields can be found on the refuge; some are scattered along the wildlife drive. These early successional stages of vegetation provide important growth of herbaceous plants, briars, vines and young woody growth. They are important because they provide cover year-round. Many species find these old fields especially valuable during hard winters. Species often associated with old fields include



### Native Grasslands

About 250 acres of warm season grasses occur on the refuge and can be seen along the drive. These grasses serve as some diversity for certain species. During the growing seasons, these fields provide some long grass conditions. Often seen animals include deer, turkey, armadillo, rabbits, hawks, owls, meadow larks, indigo buntings and bluebirds.



### Edges



The term "edge" means those transitional zones between different habitat types. They are found between woodlands and croplands or croplands and wetlands, etc. Hedgerows and grown-up ditch banks are also valuable edges. These all serve as highways for movement, escape cover from danger, or nesting, feeding and loafing areas. Edges provide habitat for an abundance of species. These areas provide viewing for deer, rabbits, hawks, owls, raccoon, opossum, foxes, bobcats, rodents, quail, and many other species of birds and butterflies.

### Open water



There are about 4,000 acres of open water on the refuge including rivers, creeks and impoundments. Open water can be seen along the wildlife drive as it passes near the Chattahoochee River or other backwaters of the reservoir. The lake is valuable for fishery resources where bass, bream, crappie and catfish are sought by anglers. The lake's shallow edges are important for wading and shorebirds. Open water is also where you might see ducks, geese, coots, gallinules, herons, egrets, wood storks, beaver, alligators, osprey and an occasional bald eagle.

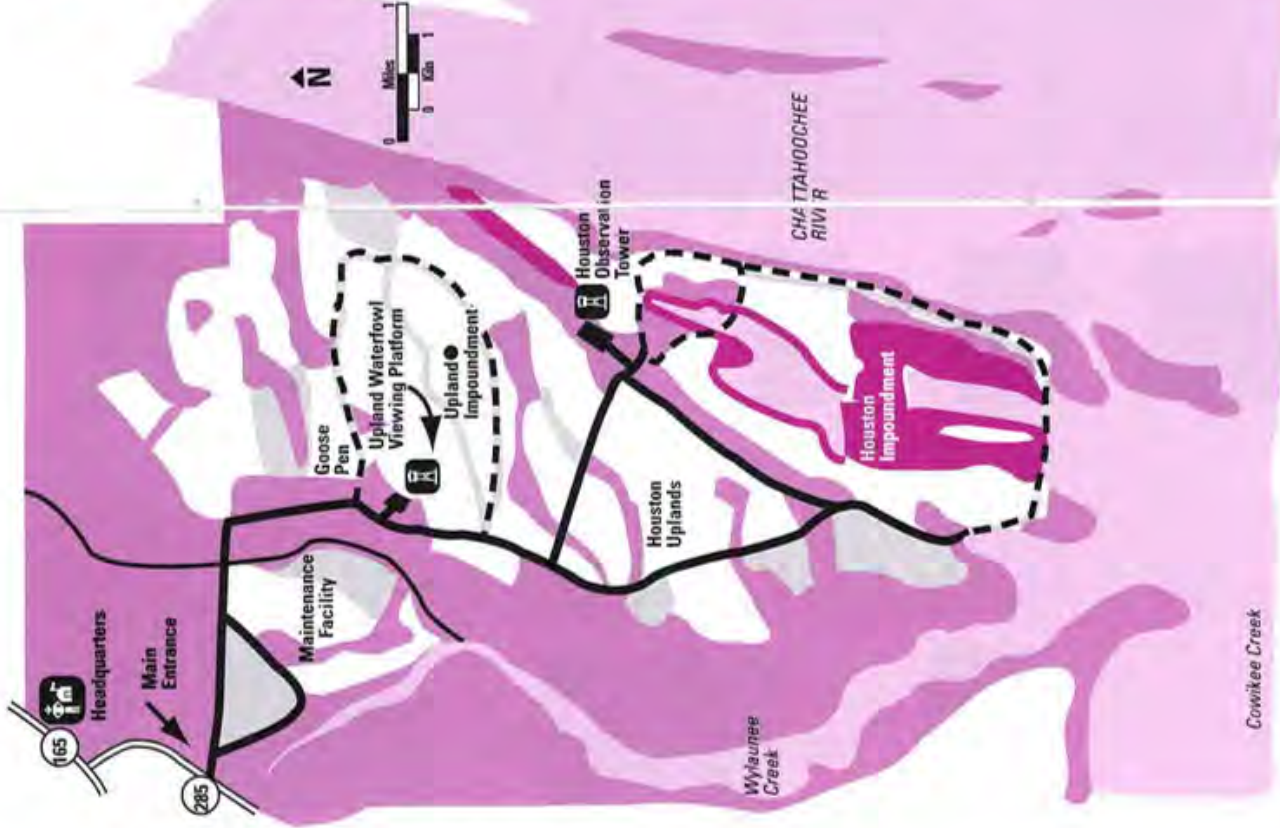


## Marshland

Almost 3,000 acres on the refuge are considered marsh; half are within man-made dikes where water levels are regulated. This habitat type is observed along the wildlife drive from the Houston dike. The dominant plant species are floating aquatic plants, sedges, grasses, and willows. Only in late summer are these areas dry. They provide a valuable habitat for marsh and aquatic species. Notable species include rails, snipe, woodcock, wading and shorebirds, wood storks, sandhill crane, raccoon and deer.



## Opportunities for people



# Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge

For additional information  
contact: Refuge Manager  
Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge 367  
Highway 165  
Eufaula, AL 36027-8187  
334/687 4065 (voice)  
334/687 5906 (fax)  
<http://eufaula.fws.gov>



# Holy Trinity



Holy Trinity is an unincorporated community in Russell County, Alabama. The area is home to the Apalachicola Fort Site, an archeological site established by the Spanish in 1690 and a National Historic Landmark. Additionally, the area shares a long history with the Catholic Church. The Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity and the Most Blessed Trinity were established in the area in 1928. The St. Peter Claver Church served as the seminary chapel in the area until the 1960s. Today, the area is home to St. Joseph's Parish and the Blessed Trinity Shrine, a vibrant church community and retreat center.



## Quick Facts



Random Trivia: The Apalachicola Historic Site is currently threatened by the high water table of the Walter F. George Lake, which causes erosion and ground slumping in the area.



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## Session IX – Holy Trinity

Below are the biographies of the panelists for Session IX, exploring the historical significance of the parish and the ways the church continues to serve surrounding communities through outreach ministries and social services.

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### Rowell Guevarra

Rowell Guearra is the Church Administrator at Saint Joseph's Parish.

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### Fr. David Hamm

Father David Hamm was born on August 2, 1948 and hails from Williamsport, PA. After being inspired by a Missionary Servant priest giving a vocation talk at his home parish, Fr. Dave took his first steps toward priesthood by attending Fr. Judge Missionary Seminary, our former minor seminary in Monroe, Virginia. He was fulfilling a dream of becoming a missionary priest that he'd had from his earliest years. Since his ordination in 1975, Fr. Dave has served as a parish priest in many of our missions in Louisiana, Georgia, and Mississippi. He ventured north in the 1980's for five years to be our Formation Director in Silver Spring, Maryland, but headed south again where he has remained for many years. Although he arrived in Delisle, Mississippi, after Hurricane Katrina, Fr. Dave and his parishioners continued to feel the devastating effects of the disaster years later. He was a driving force in rebuilding the church community of the area, which resulted in the combination of three churches into one completely new church. Fr. Dave led our missionary efforts for three churches in southwest Georgia. Although he has served diverse communities in the past, this was his first ministry with Spanish-speaking Catholics. He was very excited to celebrate the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe Mass and posadas for the first time. No matter where he is serving, Fr. Dave feels blessed to always have the opportunity to foster a missionary spirit within the laity so that they, too, are empowered to share the Good News with others. He is currently the pastor of St. Joseph parish in Ft. Mitchell, Alabama.





### **A Brief History of St. Joseph's Church**

Through a generous gift of \$5,000 by Mrs. Mary K. Walker in memory of her husband, the purchase of 1,400 acres of land on September 29, 1920 was made possible. Subsequently, this church was built as the seminary chapel of the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity, founded by Father Thomas Augustine Judge, C.M. The first Mass celebrated here was Christmas Eve 1926, and the chapel was formally consecrated by Bishop Thomas J. Toolen on January 10, 1927. It served as the seminary chapel and the site of many profession of vows and other significant events over the years. In the 1960s the seminary moved to Monroe, Virginia. St. Peter Claver Church which had served this local community was relocated to this chapel which now became known as St. Joseph Parish, serving all of rural Russell County.

Father Thomas Augustine Judge, the first pastor of St. Joseph's, believed that every baptized person was gifted by the Holy Spirit to be an immense power for good. To use his phrase, "every Catholic an apostle!" People came from all parts of the United States here to Holy Trinity in the early 1900s. Together with the small but growing local Catholic population here in rural Russell County, St. Joseph's and Holy Trinity became a place of safety and welcome for all peoples. Some of those who came initially as volunteers felt called by God to become priests and brothers who would continue this missionary work. Thus the Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity were born in 1929. Today they number over 140 priests and brothers throughout the United States and Latin America. Their mission is to help every Catholic become an "apostle in the providence of their everyday lives" with the goal of reaching out to those who are most in need and in danger of losing their faith.

<http://www.holytrinityal.org/history.html>



# Phenix City



Phenix City, also known as the “Hub City”, is located on the Chattahoochee River on the border between east Alabama and western Georgia, partially in Lee County and partially in Russell County. It is the county seat of Russell County. Because of its proximity to Columbus, GA the city unofficially observes Eastern Time unlike the majority of the state which observes Central Time. In the 1940s and 1950s, the city was notorious for organized crime, gambling, and prostitution rings, winning it the name “Sin City, U.S.A” despite its relatively small size. In 1954, attorney Alber Patterson was assassinated for his role in attempting to clean up organized crime. This reputation inspired the 1955 docudrama, “The Phenix City Story.”



Today, the city is part of the Columbus Metropolitan Statistical Area, a trading and marketing area that spans east Alabama and western Georgia. It is also less than 10 miles from Fort Benning. In 1955, the city was named an All-America City and in 2007, it was named the nation’s best Affordable Suburb to Raise a Family by BusinessWeek. Today, Phenix City has a strong reputation for success in youth and high school sports.

## Quick Facts

**Population:** 32,822

**Racial Composition:** 48.7% White, 46.6% African American, 0.3% Native American, 0.7% Asian, 0.2% Pacific Islander, 1.4% from other races, 2.2% two or more races, and 4% Hispanic or Latino of any race.

**Median Age:** 33.1

**County:** Russell and Lee

**Random Trivia:** Horace King, one of the most respected bridge builders in the United States and a slave until age 40, built the first railroad bridge connecting Phenix City and Columbus, Georgia in the early 1800s. According to F.L King, every bridge constructed during the 1800s spanning the Chattahoochee was constructed by Horace King.









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# BURT JONES RURAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**<sup>\*</sup> | Division of  
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## Session X – Phenix City

Below are the biographies of the speakers for Session X, examining different forms of local government and discussing the ways in which municipalities are challenged and incentivized to cooperate within a metro area.

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### Mayor F. L. “Bubba” Copeland

Mayor Copeland is a lifelong resident of Smiths Station. He graduated in 1992 from Smiths Station High School where he also played football under Coach Moose Godwin. After high school he went on to attend college. Prior to becoming mayor on November 7, 2016, Bubba served on the Lee County Board of Education for eleven years. During the time he spent on the school board he was instrumental in the restructuring of the schools to create neighborhood schools. As a result of the amount of money saved on fuel, the school board was able to break the ground for the new Smiths Station High School. In 2016, the graduation rate was up from seventy percent to ninety percent. Bubba is an ordained minister and serves as a youth minister at First Baptist Church in Phenix City, Alabama. He also owns and operates the Country Market in Salem.



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### Mayor B. H. “Skip” Henderson III

Mayor Henderson was born in Columbus, GA and graduated from Columbus High School. He gained invaluable experience working for his father’s real estate business before taking on the role of Team Leader at Keller-Williams Realty. Skip is the son of Army veteran, Berry Henderson. He has been married to Karon for over 36 years and together, they have raised their two children here. Skip served as Post 10 City Councilman for over two decades, including nine years as chair of the budget committee. He has been active in the community serving as chair of vital organizations such as the Better Business Bureau, March of Dimes, and the Kiwanis Club and other boards and authorities. He and his wife, Karon, serve together on the Leadership Council for the American Cancer Society. Leading with a progressive agenda, Skip’s commitment to improving the City of Columbus is unwavering; and moving forward, he hopes to continue using his experience, perseverance, and passion to serve his community full-time as Mayor.



Mayor Henderson attended the University of Georgia and Columbus College.



## **Mayor Eddie Lowe**

The Honorable Eddie Lowe was born in Columbus, GA. He is a native of Phenix City and is a 1978 Central High School graduate. He continued his development by attending the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga for one year, but had a burning desire to attend The University of Alabama. Eddie walked on and received a scholarship his first year and continued to play under the leadership of the late Paul (Bear) Bryant, where he developed the core of his lessons for a positive focus and view for living. While at The University of Alabama, he earned a degree in Finance which led him into the banking industry. Eddie went on to play professional football for nine years with the Saskatchewan Rough Riders of the Canadian Football League. In 1994, he was inducted into the Saskatchewan Plaza of Honor. He is currently the Senior Vice President of CB&T of East Alabama and is responsible for the operations of all branches. Eddie is a very active citizen in the community. He is the Chaplain and Volunteer Coach for Central High, active in United Way, on numerous boards, and served for over twelve years on the Phenix City Board of Education. He was elected Mayor of Phenix City on August 28, 2012.



Mayor Lowe is an alumnus of The University of Alabama.

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## **Commissioner Peggy Martin**

Commissioner Peggy Martin was born and reared in Phenix City, Alabama. She is the widow of SFC Charles S. Martin, U. S. Army, who died while on active duty in April, 1975. Peggy has four adult children, nine grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren. She attended local public schools and is a graduate of Central High School in Phenix City. Peggy retired as Consumer Services Manager after thirty-three years of loyal service to Tom's Foods in Columbus, Georgia. She presently serves as Russell County Commissioner (District Three) and serves as Commission Chair. Previous elected public service include Mayor of Phenix City (1998-2001); District One City Councilmember (1995-1998) and City Planning Commission member. Peggy was a ground floor member of the "Phenix Forward" project to rebuild the city and as the result of continued support of Phenix City voters; she was able to see the project through to completion as Mayor. Peggy is a professing Christian and member of Central Baptist Church (Broad Street) where she is an active member of Sunday school, past teacher of single adults, member of the Worship Choir, member of Women on Mission, and serves on various church committees. She is also a member of Lakewood Baptist Church AMEN Choir. She further pursued her desire to serve her community as former board member and past president of the Habitat for Humanity – Russell County, member of American Legion Auxiliary (Post 135), Gold Star Wives, Phenix City Exchange Club, and Civitan Club. Peggy served as Board member of the Russell County Shelter for Battered Women and as a facilitator for the women's group meetings. She is a charter member of the Russell County Republican Club.



Commissioner Martin is an alumna of Chattahoochee Valley Community College (A.A.) and Troy State University (B.S. in Social Science and master's in Counseling and Human Development).



Russell County, AL - A judge out of Dothan, Alabama met with both Russell County and Phenix City attorney representatives over a lawsuit led by the county back in January 2017.

Millions of dollars is what the county claims is owed to them by Phenix City. Attorneys with the county say the issues began with a water and sewer feud between the county and Phenix City, but has now grown to larger findings.

The lawsuit says there are areas in Ladonia and Fort Mitchell where Phenix City is collecting funds and the county believes it's not legal.

"There are several issues involved in this case," says Eric Funderburk, lead attorney for Russell County in this case. "Areas in the county---whether or not those areas should be serviced by Russell County sewer authority or whether they should be serviced by the Phenix City water and sewer utility board."

Phenix City attorney Jim McKoon says the city disputes the county's accusations and believes the lawsuit will come out in the city's favor.

A May 2016, Alabama law limits cities in police jurisdiction powers and the county believes they should be the only one to levy taxes, issue business licenses, and enforce codes for the people in those areas.

The county claims the city is lassoing and annexing areas and bringing police jurisdictions along with it.

A lasso is a term meaning the city goes down a road or down a water pipe from the city limits to an area that's not attached or adjacent to the city line.

People living in the areas in question can only vote in county elections, but the city is allowed to tax them.

The county is asking for the total amount of tax by the city plus interest dating back to May 2016.

"We've identified a mediator and we are just trying to find a day to get it scheduled to work the case out," Funderburk said.

A mediation date has not been set for the county and city, but the county hopes it can happen as early as November.

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East Alabama Chamber of Commerce

*About Us*

<https://www.ealcc.com/about-us/>

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The Valley Partnership

*About Us*

<https://www.valleypartnership.org/page/AboutUs>



PHENIX CITY, Ala. — Eddie Lowe, this city's first-ever black mayor, could feel the white anxiety here.

It was early September in Phenix City, a small east Alabama borough where the percentage of African-Americans has risen over the decades, to the point that they are nearly on a par with whites. Voters had just re-elected Mr. Lowe to a second four-year term — and, for the first time, elected a 3-to-2 black majority to the City Council.

This new reality, Mr. Lowe's predecessor told a local paper, had created a "great division" between blacks and whites in the city of 37,500, and was stoking fears among white residents that minorities would be favored in future board appointments.

A few white residents had begun posting racist reactions on social media: On Aug. 28, five days after the election, one man wrote on Facebook that it "may be time to throw in the towel and admit 'the brothas rule.'" A young black activist, meanwhile, had been publicly provoking them by declaring that Phenix City was now "Chocolate City."

The crisis seemed emblematic of this fragile American moment, in which white voters' fear of diminished political clout has helped fuel the rise of Donald J. Trump. But there was also something distinctly American about the response from Mr. Lowe, a twice-weekly attendee of the Greater Mount Zion Baptist Church and former defensive captain of the University of Alabama football team. On Sept. 8, he held a news conference that turned out to be more of a sermon, mixed with an impassioned locker-room speech.

With an array of black and white residents behind him, Mr. Lowe told the story of a child who fell into a gorilla pit at an Illinois zoo, only to be scooped up by one of the gorillas and safely delivered to paramedics. "If a gorilla can show compassion to someone who doesn't look like her, certainly we can show compassion," Mr. Lowe said. "If a gorilla can show love to someone different than her, we can show love."

Mr. Lowe is 56 and maintains a linebacker's form, with dump-truck shoulders and the kind of large, blocky hands one finds on workers in social realist murals. His father was a sharecropper and brick mason. Mr. Lowe, as a child, played football in an empty lot on the poor, black south side of Phenix City, sometimes with an empty bean can in place of a ball. At Alabama, he earned a degree in finance. Today, he is a senior vice president at a bank.

Every day, Mr. Lowe teaches himself a new word from the dictionary and reads a chapter of Proverbs. He revels in the occasional dip into cornpone Southern slang. His management theory: Don't be a caitiff ("You can look that up," he said) but rather, a "sho nuff leader." By which he means: Don't make it about you. Take your knocks if you must. Love people. Lead by example.

"You have to be consistent," he said. "You have to show and be that person, and be willing to take the bumps and bruises."

Mr. Lowe, a part-time mayor, is zealous to an almost Trumpian degree in his promotion of Phenix City. It is a former cotton-mill town somewhat lacking in charm that now serves as a bedroom community to Columbus, Ga., and the Fort Benning military base across the Chattahoochee River. He knows that the city is still half white, and



that he will need white support for his visions, like his plan to create a downtown park that will honor Alabama's fallen military heroes.

On race, Mr. Lowe calls himself "kind of a Pollyanna, utopia guy." He credits football — even though the football life was not always utopian. His college career began in 1978 at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, where during his freshman year most of the black players quit in a protest over the lack of African-Americans on the coaching staff. Mr. Lowe said that he and one other black player refused to quit. "My parents didn't raise me that way," he said. The criticism, he recalled, rained down from all sides. "It got so bad you couldn't even go to class," he said. "You couldn't even get a hamburger."

He transferred to Alabama, and played under the famed coach Paul (Bear) Bryant. Then he was off to the Canadian Football League, where he spent nine years with the Saskatchewan Roughriders. "You play with guys from all over the world, all over the country," he said. "Different cultures, different beliefs, different backgrounds, just totally different." If "a bunch of dumb jocks" could unite and seek a common goal, he added, why can't everyone?

The halo of gridiron stardom in this football-obsessed state helped Mr. Lowe win over many white residents in 2012, when he was elected with 64 percent of the vote. In office, he instituted a yearly State of the City report, and a yearly unity prayer breakfast. He pushed for a city mission statement that included a commitment to being free of "any expression of bias or prejudice."

He helped establish the White Water Classic, a yearly football game between two historically black colleges, Albany State and Tuskegee Universities. And he worked on improving Phenix City's reputation, still damaged from midcentury, when it was a thriving hub of gambling, prostitution and crime that catered to — and preyed upon — the soldiers from Fort Benning.

Changes in the old racial dynamic had been brewing since 2008, when a white barber and longtime liberal on race issues, James Wetzel, was elected to the City Council and soon formed a coalition with the Council's two black members. They hired the first black city manager, Wallace B. Hunter, and began spreading public investments around town after years in which, Mr. Wetzel said, funding had seemed concentrated on the wealthy and largely white north side.

Mr. Wetzel said that some north-side whites used racist language to paint him as a race traitor. But not all of them.

"I think Phenix City is typical of small Southern cities that are going through the transition," said Mr. Wetzel, who was defeated for re-election in 2012. "The old, hard racial sentiment of the older people, that's dying out. The white people, age 50 on down, they really don't have those sentiments, unless they're really hard-core uneducated rednecks."

Racial tensions continued through Mr. Lowe's first term, however. In May 2014, his brother, Woodrow Lowe, a former linebacker with the San Diego Chargers, was fired from his head coaching job at the main public high school, after a 33-13 record in four seasons. (In his last season as coach, the team went 6-4.) Around that time, the City Council, in a 3-to-2 vote that split on racial lines, also fired Mr. Hunter. But the Council rehired Mr. Hunter two weeks later after hundreds of black residents rallied, raising questions about the treatment of both men.

Today, the mayor declines to speak about the episodes and the role race might have played. He does not see what good it will do.



He won the Aug. 23 election with 59 percent of the vote, proving that there are many whites here who are comfortable with black leadership. But the lingering grievances are real. Some residents, on social media, have criticized the White Water Classic and the celebrations around it because they catered to blacks. “Did anyone win the CHOCOLATE CITY CLASSIC?” one man wrote on Facebook on Sept. 10, the night of the game.

Others questioned Mr. Lowe’s assertion that the game was an economic boon for Phenix City. Mr. Lowe, in rebuttal, points to an in-house study that shows that the net gain for the city in the White Water Classic’s first two years was nearly \$600,000.

Two days after the game, Mr. Lowe stopped by a TV station in Columbus for an on-camera interview, where he discussed, somewhat vaguely, the reasons he called the news conference. Afterward, the anchor, Mercer Van Schoor, asked, as if seeking reassurance: “You don’t like ‘Chocolate City’?”

“Well, listen, no,” Mr. Lowe said. “We are one Phenix City, as I’ve been saying. Positively one Phenix City.”

Driving around town in his tiny sedan, Mr. Lowe showed off the empty lots where he wants to put his military park. He vowed never to replace a white good-old-boy system with a black one. Running the city competently and fairly, he said, would demonstrate his character. He is optimistic enough to believe that this might even change the hearts of Phenix City’s staunchest racists.

He smiled.

“We’re not going to let that gorilla out-love us,” he said.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2016/09/20/us/having-won-re-election-a-black-mayor-is-out-to-win-every-voters-heart.html>



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# BURT JONES RURAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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## Session XI – Phenix City

Below are the biographies of the speakers for Session XI, discussing the redevelopment of Phenix City's downtown along the banks of the Chattahoochee River.

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### **Mary Mayrose**

Mary Mayrose is Executive Director of the Phenix City Housing Authority. Her previous experience includes Revitalization Specialist of United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Director of Community Development of Center for Neighborhoods, Project Manager of Deaconess Health System, and Project Coordinator of Younkers, Inc.

Mary is an alumna of Drake University (B.F.A. in Architectural Design) and University of Louisville (M.U.P.)

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### **Shaun Culligan**

Shaun Culligan is the Economic Development Director for Phenix City. Previously, he served as an Economic Development Specialist for both Phenix City and Troy University.

Culligan holds a bachelor's in marketing from Auburn University at Montgomery.

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### **Kathy Ninas**

Kathy Ninas is the Regional Director of Development, Troy University.



A section of the Riverview Apartments in Phenix City is being leveled to make way for the new Whitewater Village under the Phenix City Housing Authority. Officials envision a mixed income and mixed use neighborhood that will revitalize downtown BY ROBIN TRIMARCHI

Ashley Hudson has lived five years in Phenix City's Riverview Apartments, with the young mother raising three children in an area geographically referred to as "up on the hill" off Fourth Avenue.

On Wednesday, her eyes grew misty while describing in starkly simple terms why she is happy to be leaving the 1950s-era portion of Riverview for a new "rental assisted" apartment complex called Hidden Hills Trace a short drive away near South Railroad Street.

"It's somewhere my kids will be able to actually go outside and play and enjoy themselves and not have to worry about anything," said Hudson, 27, originally from Waverly Hall, Ga. "Now don't get me wrong, Riverview has been a blessing to us. It has ... because it put a roof over our heads."

But the mother and home-health care worker also is certainly looking ahead — with a humble pride of sorts — to the vastly more modern Hidden Hills Trace that is part of the Phenix City Housing Authority's strategic plan to upgrade its aging complexes, which also includes shepherding a multiphase project called Whitewater Village on the property where Riverview has stood for decades, the earliest units dating to 1941.

"Yeah, moving is stressful, but at the same time it's something to look forward to for my kids and for myself," Hudson said. "It's somewhere we can go where this is brand new. This is not something that we have to go in and someone before us already lived there."

Those are the emotions that have been surfacing with Mary Mayrose, the housing authority's executive director, and her staff relocating residents from the Riverview Apartments now being prepared to be razed by bulldozers to other housing in Phenix City.

All of the moves are tied into the Whitewater Village project, which will come over three or four phases, with the first step the creation of Hidden Hills Trace, a complex at the intersection of 24th Street and 19th Avenue. It is being built and overseen by Northport, Ala.-based Hollyhand Development with the help of a little more than \$11 million in federal tax credits.

Construction on Hidden Hills Trace began last November and should be completed by December, Mayrose said, with families moving in immediately. Those people being relocated from Riverview have the opportunity to enter other public housing or convert their assistance to a program called Rental Assistance Demonstration, which allows them to live in any private housing complex in which the owner is participating.

Of the 104 families being moved from the western section of Riverview Apartments, 54 of them — including Hudson and her children — have decided they will move to Hidden Hills Trace when it opens, she said. The remaining 50 either can return to the new Whitewater Village housing complex when it opens by December 2019 or take a voucher and live elsewhere in the city.



It's all part of a master plan that the Phenix City Housing Authority began reviewing roughly two years ago, making the decision to phase out the aging housing and replace it with new properties that have modern amenities such as central heat and air, wood flooring, sizable kitchens with a dishwasher, washer-dryer hookups and good parking.

The overall 306 units that comprise Riverview Apartments — about two-thirds of them waiting for a future reconstruction phase — range in age from those constructed “up on the hill” in 1952 to others built in 1941, the year the U.S. entered World War II. The redevelopment area has been dubbed Whitewater Village because of its proximity to the Chattahoochee River and the rapids that form the whitewater course.

“We decided some years ago through a strategic planning process that we wanted to redevelop this site first. We knew we had redevelopment needs everywhere, but we wanted to start here,” said Mayrose of the public housing land that encompasses nearly 20 acres and is adjacent to the new Troy University building and a new Courtyard by Marriott hotel. The headquarters structure of credit-card processor TSYS is easily visible across the river in Columbus.

Whitewater Village will be a mixed-use development, but the first phase “up on the hill” will be residential only for both low-income subsidized residents and those paying market rates. The project is being funded through a second awarding of federal tax credits totaling \$14 million, with site excavation starting this October and construction of the new buildings by Hollyhand Development expected to be completed by December of next year.

“When we were doing our strategic planning process, one of the things we learned is that everybody wants to get down to the river,” Mayrose said. “So we wanted to make walkways and pathways and roads and streets that would get everybody to the river because that's a resource that we want our (current) families and our new families to take advantage of.”

Thus, the design is to make the first phase of the Whitewater Village residential development an urban neighborhood with plenty of trees, wide sidewalks and bicycle paths and improved streets. The plan includes widening 17th Street south to Fourth Avenue and eventually all the way to the river. Mayrose said the goal is to use the architecture and geographic design of the current phase of redeveloped property to give it “kind of an uptown feeling.”

There's no time frame for when the next phase of the overall project will begin, the executive director said, although it will include additional residential areas and commercial property closer to the river.

“It's maybe going to have some coffee shops and restaurants, maybe it's going to have some office space. We've had conversations with Troy University about maybe some gallery space. Maybe they'll have a need for some classroom space. We don't know. We're just really open to all kinds of options and conversations,” Mayrose said, noting all of the construction that will take place as the project unfolds will create jobs locally, as will any future business development in the area.

The Phenix City Housing Authority currently owns all of the property in the Whitewater Village project, although all of it except a tiny percentage will move to an entity called Whitewater Village Limited to protect those investing in the development via the 10-year tax credits, Mayrose said.



“We have an agreement with Hollyhand that in five years we will take over management of the property, and then in five more years, when the tax credits expire, we will take over ownership,” she said. “So it eventually comes back to us.”

Mayrose said the housing authority and its board members have done all their homework to include having environmental reviews conducted and performing market studies. The hope is everything will fall into place without any problems.

“We feel very confident about the product that we’re going to build. We feel very confident about the change that it’s going to provide for this community, and we feel really confident about the fact that we think it’s going to allow us to move on to our next couple of phases,” she said.

#### BY THE NUMBERS

- Hidden Hills Trace will have nine buildings, 84 units and 100,000 square feet of space under roof altogether
- Whitewater Village will have seven buildings, 82 units and 120,000 square feet of space in all

<https://www.ledger-enquirer.com/latest-news/article215662745.html>

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Phenix City downtown revitalization plan stirs mixed reactions from residents

*Tony Sloan | WTVM*

*July 30, 2018*

<https://www.wtvm.com/story/38761768/phenix-city-downtown-revitalization-plan-stirs-mixed-reactions-from-residents/>

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Troy University-Phenix City at the center of downtown riverfront revival

*Linda Brannon | Alabama News Center*

*September 28, 2016*

<https://alabamaneewscenter.com/2016/09/28/troy-university-phenix-city-center-downtown-riverfront-revival/>

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Former Phenix City Mayor Sonny Coulter sits down for a Ledger-Enquirer Sunday interview

*Chuck Williams | Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*

*September 3, 2016*

<https://alabamaneewscenter.com/2016/09/28/troy-university-phenix-city-center-downtown-riverfront-revival/>



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# BURT JONES RURAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

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## Session XII – Phenix City

Below are the biographies of the speakers for Session XI, discussing the foster care system in Russell County.

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### **Brady Butler**

Mr. Brady Butler was born and raised in Ladonia and is a graduate of Russell County High School. He has worked at Russell County Department of Human Resources (DHR) for over six years with foster children and their families. Brady's caseload is primarily made up of teenagers in foster care. He is the Independent Living Coordinator for Russell County DHR. Brady is the liaison between the Russell County DHR and the Russell County Family Drug Court.

Butler holds a B.S. in Psychology and Human Development from Auburn University and a M.A. in Biblical Studies from Liberty University.



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### **Heidi Grohman**

Mrs. Heidi Grohman has lived in Lee County Alabama for the past 30 years. She acquired over a decade of experience in community mental health before coming to the Russell County Department of Human Resources (DHR) in 1999. At Russell County DHR, Heidi has served as a family preservation worker, quality assurance coordinator, resource supervisor, assessment supervisor, program supervisor and program manager.

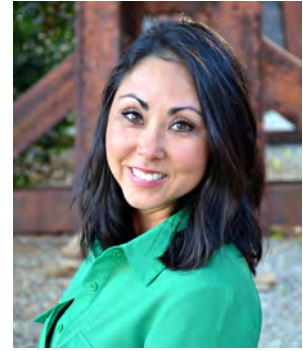
Grohman holds a B.S. in Psychology from Northern Arizona University.





## Jessica Taylor

Jessica Taylor is the Executive Director for Project Greene Light, serving since June of 2019. Project Greene Light is a resource of support for foster children and foster families. Jessica has a strong sense of responsibility towards community enrichment, regularly serving both Muscogee and Russell Counties with numerous volunteer commitments. These include Alzheimer's and Dementia Respite Care, Project Greene Light (Board of Director and Officer Positions), House of Heroes, TAPS, Stewart Community Home, myTEAM TRIUMPH and the Columbus Hockey Association. She is an active member of St. Luke Church, and is married with two children, Mason (8) and Samuel (2). They live on a small farm in Seale.





### **Who are we?**

Mrs. Cora Reid Greene is the inspiration behind who we are and what we do. Her devotion and leadership helped create an emergency shelter home for foster children.

In 1987 Cora Reid and her son, Judge George Greene, saw a need to take care of children entering court-appointed custody during late hours or weekends when normal response and placement were difficult.

Out of the need and their determination was born The Phenix City-Russell County Council for Abused and Neglected Children. The council opened an emergency shelter for children entering care that would be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to open its arms to children until another safe, nurturing, and more permanent foster home could be found. While our name has changed our mission remains the same, to provide support for foster children in East Alabama.

### **Board of Directors**

President – Joan Budd

Vice President – Jessica Taylor

Treasurer – Gail Head

Secretary – Leslie Jones

Stephen Abbott

Lynne Frakes

Michelle Gadson

Richard Key

Cyde McQuien

Lacey Skinner

Bob Tompkins

Pat Waldrop



### **Visitation Center**



What is a visitation center you may ask? It's a place for foster families and birth families to meet and allow meaningful connections to be made/reestablished. What will our visitation center offer? Since opening, we have allowed children to have 92.5 parental contact hours. Learn more.



### **Birthday Cakes**

Right now there are 120 children in Russell County Department of Human Resources care. Each one of these children will have a birthday, and we want to make it memorable. We can do with a \$30 Walmart Gift Card to cover the cost of a personalized birthday cake from the bakery.



### **Cora's Closet**

We are working to prep emergency grab bags that have basics in them for children coming into care.

<https://projectgreenelight.org/>



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# BURT JONES RURAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

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## Session XIII – Phenix City

Below is the biography of the speaker for Session XIII, discussing the “Sin City” era of the 1940s-1950s which saw organized crime, gambling and prostitution and culminated with the assassination of the Attorney General-elect.

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### **E. D. Helton**

E. D. Helton is the Chief of Staff, Columbus State University (CSU). He has served CSU in a variety of roles including Assistant Vice President for Leadership Development, Executive Director of the Leadership Institute and Client Relations, and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy. E. D. is certified in several assessments, including The Center for Creative Leadership, The Center for Applied Psychological Types, Lominger International, Competitive Edge, The Browning Group, The Hay Group, The Leadership Challenge, and EI World. He led in the development of the GTBTR (Get The Big Things Right) assessment, unique to The Leadership Institute. He is also a trained Executive Coach. In May 2013, E. D. completed the Art and Practice of Leadership Development Executive Education course at the Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University. The course was led by Dr. Ronald Heifetz, the King Hussein bin Talal Senior Lecturer in Public Leadership and founder of The Center for Public Leadership. In March 2015, he attended the Minds at Work training in Cambridge, Mass., where he was licensed to facilitate the Immunity to Change (ITC) instrument. The ITC instrument was developed by Robert Kegan, the William and Miriam Meehan Professor in Adult Learning and Professional Development at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education, and Lisa Lahey, associate director of Harvard's Change Leadership Group. In October 2015, E. D. was selected to present a talk on “Adaptive Leadership as a Model for Executive Coaching,” at the first Adaptive Leadership Alumni Conference at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. He is also a guest and keynote speaker for a number of organizations and events, including the Governor's Conference on Tourism, the Georgia Convention and Visitors Bureau Annual Meeting, Columbus Water Works, Niles Bolton Architects, FEI-Atlanta and other corporate and civic groups.



Helton is an alumnus of Samford University (B.A. in Communication and English, M.A. in Philosophy). Additionally, he received an honorary Doctor of Divinity from Judson College.



ALBERT PATTERSON

Attorney general nominee

"If they kill me, it will be from ambush, probably as I drive in my yard at home or from behind some bush. I wouldn't have any way to defend myself, and I don't see any necessity of carrying a pistol." – To Hugh Bentley, who offered him a pistol for his protection, June 1954; "They've put in for me. There's nothing you can do about it. But if they do get me, don't let them get away with it." – To Howard Pennington, president of the Russell Betterment Association, June 1954

JOHN PATTERSON

Son of Albert Patterson

"I feel that the reasons behind this are that he was fighting organized crime in the state of Alabama and particularly in Phenix City and that myself, the citizens and the organization behind him, will continue the fight against organized crime more relentlessly than ever. You know as well as I they didn't want him to be attorney general." – June 19, 1954

HUGH BENTLEY

Leader in the Russell Betterment Association

"Gambling led Phenix City to a moral bankruptcy. The forces of evil over there want to bring it back --- because of Fort Benning and . . . these forces of evil want the soldiers' money. We want to have legalized gambling --- then we'll want legalized prostitution --- then we'll want legalized murder." – July 23, 1959

HUGH BRITTON

Leader in the Russell Betterment Association

"If I had somebody to swear out a warrant for you, I would do it for not doing your duty." – To Russell County Judge Harry Randall, who refused to issue warrants for those interfering with the election, May 1952

HOYT SHEPHERD

Gambling kingpin

"Might have to steal a few more, huh?" – On votes during an election, from a secret recording of a conversation released to the Russell Betterment Association in July 1954

ARCH FERRELL

Circuit solicitor who was acquitted of killing Albert Patterson

"We want a decent election tomorrow. We want an election like the meetings we've conducted where the good women of our families can vote without being insulted and molested by noisy on-lookers. We make \$28 million here. We spend too much of our money across the river. They are not satisfied to get the lion's share of what we spend. That is the reason why The Ledger is out to blacken our names in the country . . . Our hoggish neighbors across the river want \$10 out of every sawbuck we spend. We've asked them (the opposition) to put up or shut up.



They haven't shut up, and we're waiting for them to put up in this election tomorrow." – May 6, 1952

ALBERT FULLER

Chief deputy sheriff who was convicted of killing Albert Patterson

"I state to you that I am not guilty. I am not guilty of killing Mr. Patterson, and I do not know who did kill Mr. Patterson." – After being sentenced to life in prison on June 16, 1955; he was paroled after 10 years

SILAS GARRETT

Alabama attorney general who was never tried on charges of murdering Albert Patterson

"His condition is such at this time it is required he remain in the hospital for an indefinite period. Upon discharge, he will return to Alabama." – Daniel Bobbitt, assistant administrator at the Texas mental hospital where Garrett fled to after the murder, on Dec. 12, 1954. Garrett was never returned to Alabama to be tried for the crime.

MAJ. GEN. WALTER "CRACK" HANNA

Head of the National Guard

"We are placing Russell County and Phenix City under what is known as martial rule. I do not intend to take over any other functions of the county and city unless I fail to get unqualified and complete cooperation from any office." – July 22, 1954, when martial law began in Phenix City

GORDON PERSONS

Alabama governor 1951-55

"Now that John Patterson is sure of being Alabama's next attorney general . . . I urge you to immediately appoint him as a special assistant attorney general so that he can immediately and officially be a part of those who are searching for the murderer of his father. This action will re-assure the people of Phenix City that there will be no let-up in our determination to keep crime and rackets out of Phenix City." – July 2, 1954

AGNES PATTERSON

Widow of Albert Patterson

"I'm going to be very bitter about this thing if something real big, real good, doesn't happen now. I think we ought to clean it out all the way --- dig down and get the roots. Mr. Patterson used to say it was like a cancer. You have to dig out the roots of a cancer, or it will grow back worse than ever. Mr. Patterson had due respect for the law. He didn't want any of his friends killed. He always tried to do things the lawful way. But we have no law in Phenix City." – July 18, 1954, one month after her husband was assassinated

WALTER JONES

Who was specially appointed to oversee the grand jury during the cleanup

"It is unthinkable to you, I am sure, as it is unthinkable to every sane person in Alabama, that a handful of lawbreakers are going to continue their criminal rule in this county. It cannot be and it shall not be that this handful of lawless people and their stooges in this county can overthrow all law, nullify the constitution of the state, make themselves the supreme law of the land and go unwhipped by justice." – July 21, 1954



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## Tuskegee



Tuskegee, Alabama is the county seat of Macon County. It holds substantial historic and cultural significance and is home to two National Historic Sites. In 1881, Booker T. Washington established the Tuskegee Normal School for Colored Teachers which later evolved into Tuskegee University. Notable Tuskegee University instructors include George Washington Carver who revolutionized southern farming methods. During the 1930s, the infamous and deadly Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment took place in the Tuskegee and surrounding communities. During the experiment, 600 African American sharecroppers were infected with syphilis and deliberately left untreated. Today, Tuskegee University has the most successful football program of any HBCU and is a National Historic Site.



During World War II, Tuskegee was home to the Tuskegee Airmen, the first African American pilots trained in the U.S. Military. Tuskegee is also home to the Tuskegee Veterans Administration Medical Center, which was established in 1923. The hospital was the first segregated veteran healthcare facility in the United States. Today the facility consists of 27 buildings and 464 acres.

### Quick Facts

**Population:** 9,865

**Racial Composition:** 95.8% African American, 2.6% White, 0.19% Native American, 0.69% Asian, 0.17% from other races, 0.88% from two or more races, and 0.68% Hispanic or Latino of any race.

**Median Age:** 27.6

**County:** Macon

**Random Trivia:** The Tuskegee National Forest is the nation's smallest, totaling just over 11,000 acres, and is home to the nationally recognized Bartram Trail, named for naturalist and explorer William Bartram in 1976.

### Alabama





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## Session XIV – Tuskegee

Below is the biography of the speaker for Session XIV, discussing opportunities and challenges of rural education.

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### **Dr. Jacqueline Brooks**

Dr. Jacqueline Renee Austin Brooks is the current Superintendent of Macon County Schools. A native of the Crossroads Community in Roba, she is a Macon County native and graduated as valedictorian from South Macon High School. After college Jacqueline went on to work in the Brevard County Schools in Viera, Florida as a teacher, team leader and finally principal. She returned to Alabama in 1998 with the Macon County Board of Education. Jacqueline was appointed interim Superintendent in July of 2010 and later hired as Superintendent. She holds memberships in many educational organizations such as School Superintendents of Alabama, Alabama School Board Association, Phi Delta Kappa, Alabama Education Association, Council of Leaders in Alabama Schools, Alabama Middle School Association, the Alabama Teachers Association, Tuskegee Area Health Education Center, and the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development.



Jacqueline has been honored as Teacher of the Year for John F. Kennedy Middle School (1994-95) and District IV Superintendent of the Year for School Superintendents of Alabama (2014-15). She has served two terms as President of District IV School Superintendents of Alabama (2014-2016) and President of School Superintendents of Alabama (2017-18). Jacqueline is a current member of the Trenholm State Community College Advisory Board and the Alabama Association of School Boards Multicultural Committee. She co-founded the Alabama Alliance of Black School Educators (AL-ABSE) to tackle achievement for black students in Alabama. Jacqueline and her husband Terry have two children.

Dr. Brooks is an alumna of Alabama State University and Nova Southeastern University (M.S. in educational leadership, Ed.S. in instructional technology, and Ed.D. in educational leadership).



The Career Technical Education Department (CTE) is a program under the Macon County School District that advances the learning outcomes of high school students through the use of modern and applied technology.

The Center is located at 1902 Taylor Street behind Tuskegee Institute Middle School.

CTE has been established unofficially for over 50 years. It offers over 12 programs for high school students in grades 9 through 12. The programs can be found on the website at [www.maconK12.org](http://www.maconK12.org). CTE also offers a free summer program called Ready to Work (RTW).

Program offered by CTE are cosmetology education, business education, information technology, agriscience education, family and consumer science education, business education/computer essentials, automotive services education, fire science, television production, health sciences, JROTC education, aerospace engineering education and custodial care/transportation services.

Macon County Schools Superintendent Dr. Jacqueline Brooks commented about the program's role.

"Career Tech is a much needed program for student success in Macon County schools," she pointed out. "In Career Tech students gain work force skills in many areas to include engineering, nursing, cosmetology, agriscience, automotive repair, fire science and more."

This year there are 1,100 students taking technical courses in the Macon County School District. Students can be involved up to three programs at the same time and all programs take three years to complete.

"I learn about different ideas and how to manage and build different items in the house, as well as different areas of electricity," said Booker T. Washington High School senior Justin Tate.

After three years students are eligible to take the state examination for their area of study. Students who pass their courses graduate with a high school diploma and certified certification with college credit.

To be considered for CTE courses, students must complete an enrollment and interest form.

"Students will learn a host of dispositions — one is character development necessary for employment," stated Dr. Melvin Lowe III, director of the CTE program.

"Students will learn a level of their own self-worth in regards to their academic skills and ability, and diversity as it relates to careers and college development."

Lowe has been with CTE for seven years and has a total of 18 years in public education.

CTE also offers students the opportunity to dual-enroll through Trenholm State Community College in Montgomery to receive college-course credit.



To be considered for dual-enrollment, students must have a grade point average (GPA) of at least a 2.5. They must also complete a Trenholm admissions application. If accepted, students receive an identification badge, library account and email account. Free tuition and books are provided.

Dual-enrollment is only for grades 10 through 12, but freshmen may be considered. CTE offers transportation six times a day for students to access Trenholm.

Currently, the Macon County School District has the largest dual-enrollment with Trenholm. CTE also offers adult education through the college.

“They get the hands-on experience that they may incorporate into their every-day lives or jobs,” says CTE career counselor Allison Rodgers.

Instructors also realize the importance of CTE.

“I enjoy teaching because we have the ability to affect students’ lives by either what we say or what we teach,” stated CTE information technology teacher William Turner.

CTE receives its funding support from the State Department of Education and the federal government. CTE also partnered with the Alabama Chapter of Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) about six years ago and have received a little over a \$100,000 from that source.

“AFCEA has supported our students collectively with robotics programs, student internships, programs and professional development for students,” Dr. Lowe noted.

Another teacher mentioned other aspects of CTE.

“We talk about business planning in agriculture, NCCER and OSHA certification,” said agriscience education teacher Tracey Stacy. “I like seeing the students mature and develop into informed citizens.”

Superintendent Brooks expanded on some other aspects of CTE.

“We co-authored an Appalachian Region grant with Trenholm to provide a state-of-art industrial maintenance program with robotics training,” she explained.

“We have students who are graduating with credentials ready to go to good paying jobs, earning college credit while in high school and students who are competing and winning state-wide Career Tech awards. The time is ripe for Career Tech as we grow our workforce in unprecedented numbers.”

Dr. Lowe recalls a couple of students who successfully graduated and are currently in the CTE program,

“The most recent student is Jacob Hartsfield. He graduates in May from Trenholm State Community College with an associate degree in business administration. He’s graduating with an associate’s degree because he took majority of his courses in high school. Now he has received a scholarship to attend Faulkner University,” Dr. Lowe said.



“The very first student I had being at CTE was Emajy Henry. She completed an application for a summer internship and received a scholarship from AFCEA. She went on to attend Alabama A&M University.”

Working together has helped develop CTE.

“I have worked the school board’s strategic plan to have specific strategies for growth in Career Tech,” pointed out Dr. Brooks. “For example, I added three new programs based on student requests and workforce data. Nursing is one of those. With hundreds of thousands of medical jobs, we had to have nursing.”

For possible enrollment into the CTE program or dual-enrollment through Trenholm, students can contact their school and or the CTE career counselor. Contact information can be found on the website.

[http://www.thetuskegeenews.com/news/career-technical-education-cte-offers-options-for-macon-students/article\\_dfb2815a-0ffd-11e7-afc0-6b75b5a330ec.html](http://www.thetuskegeenews.com/news/career-technical-education-cte-offers-options-for-macon-students/article_dfb2815a-0ffd-11e7-afc0-6b75b5a330ec.html)



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## Session XV – Tuskegee

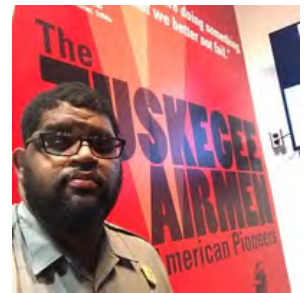
Below are the biographies of the presenters for Session XV, detailing the history of the Tuskegee Airmen, the first group of African-American aviators in the U. S. Army Air Corps (later the U. S. Air Force) during World War II.

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### **Vester Marable**

Vester L. Marable has served as a Park Ranger at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site since 2010. Prior to coming to the national park service, he spent a year in public relations with the Tuskegee/Macon County Community Development Corporation. Additionally, Vester has experience as an associate with Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site's Eastern National Book Store and marketing with the Utilities Board of Tuskegee.

Marable is an alumnus of Tuskegee University.





# Tuskegee Airmen

Tuskegee Airmen  
National Historic Site  
Alabama

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



SHOOT  
GUN  
FIGHTING POSITION  
1000-1500 FOOT  
ALTITUDE  
BREAK GUIDE  
FOR LANDING

## Taking to the Sky

On a warm July day in 1941, 13 young African American men arrived at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama to begin their training as Army Air Corps pilots. They were a long way from earning their wings, and not all would make it, but the chance to try was itself a victory, something for which African Americans had long fought. Though they had exhibited ability and courage in military conflicts from the Revolutionary War to World War I, most African Americans were either denied the chance to serve or assigned menial noncombatant roles with no chance for advancement.

The idea that they could meet the high standards of military aviation generated the fiercest resistance of all. In their training at Moton Field, however, and in combat during World War II, the Tuskegee Airmen conclusively demonstrated the skill, bravery, quick thinking, and coolness under pressure demanded of a combat pilot. As they had done so many times before, when finally given the opportunity, African Americans flew in the face of assumptions, proving they were equal to the task.



Aviation cadets from the first class at Moton Field, with P-17 trainers.



During World War II more and more Moton Field mechanics were women.



332nd Fighter Group graduates load .50 caliber wing guns, 1945.

## Our mantra was that we dared not fail . . .

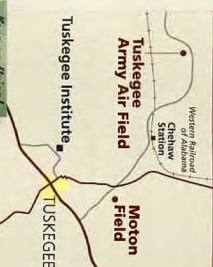
Charles Dyden, student at Moton in 1942

The booming field of aviation in America was mostly closed to African Americans in the early 1900s, and they were entirely excluded from military aviation. Then in 1939, in response to growing international tensions, Congress passed the Civilian Pilot Training (CPT) Act, designed to turn out large numbers of pilots who could move quickly into military aviation if needed. CPT programs were established at colleges around the country. Through the efforts of the National Airmen's Association of America (an organization of African American pilots), six black colleges, among them Tuskegee Institute, and one private flying school were included. In May 1940 the

was so successful that it expanded to include more advanced CPT programs, becoming the center of African American flight training in the South. The US Army Air Corps (AAC) still refused to allow important developments helped overcome its resistance: Public Law 18 of April 1939 required the AAC to contract with civilian flight schools for primary training of military pilots, and one of the schools had to train African Americans. The Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 prohibited discrimination in training for military

Tuskegee was chosen because of its success in the CPT program, a climate suitable for year-round flying, and the school's experience in conducting education in a segregated environment. The squadron would be made up primarily of African Americans training at two new air fields. Tuskegee Institute's Moton Field for primary training and Tuskegee Army Air Field (TAA) for basic and advanced training. Since both of these facilities were segregated, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) opposed the plan. Others countered that segregated training was the best that could be hoped for at that time. Moton Field and

### THE TUSKEGEE AIRFIELDS



Kennedy Field • Tuskegee Civilian Pre-Flight Training • 1940  
Moton Field • Military Primary Training • 1941  
Tuskegee Army Air Field • Basic & Advanced Training • 1941





# Moton Field 1941–1945



The rugged, dependable PT-17 "Kaydet" was the primary trainer at Moton Field.

MOTON FIELD HISTORICAL CENTER, RANDOLPH UNIVERSITY



Intense classroom sessions on navigation and gunnery complemented the cadets' training flights.

TRACELL UNIVERSITY



Parachute Rigger Alice Gray explains to cadets how their parachutes are folded and deployed.

TRACELL UNIVERSITY



At Tuskegee Military Center

While still in his teens, Charles A. Anderson (left) taught himself to fly. In 1932 he and Dr. Albert E. Forsythe became the first African American pilots to make a round-trip transcontinental flight. Admired and respected by his students, "Chief" Anderson oversaw the primary flight training of the majority of the Tuskegee Armen.

## This was the place where we learned to fly, we became pilots, we became officers . . . .

—Randolph Edwards, 2003

In 1939 Tuskegee Institute was using a borrowed field to train pilots in the Civilian Pilot Training Program. When the Army Air Corps (AAC) awarded Tuskegee Institute a contract to provide primary flight training to African Americans, the need for a new field grew more pressing. Funding the field, however, remained an obstacle. Dr. Frederick Douglass Patterson, president of Tuskegee, asked the Julius Rosenwald Fund to hold its annual meeting at the school, hoping to persuade the foundation to lend Tuskegee the money. Fortunately for Tuskegee, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was on the foundation board.

While at Tuskegee in March 1941, Mrs. Roosevelt met Charles "Chief" Anderson, head of pilot training at Tuskegee. Noting that some people believed African Americans "can't fly airplanes," she asked Anderson for a ride. Her post-flight remark "Well, you can fly all right!" and the photo of the smiling Roosevelt in the airplane with Anderson provided a great boost to African American aviation. The Rosenwald Fund agreed to lend Tuskegee the money to construct their new airfield, named Moton Field after the school's second president Robert R. Moton. The AAC also designated it Tuskegee Army Primary Flying Field.

G.L. Washington, director of Tuskegee's Department of Mechanical Industries, and Tuskegee architect Edward C. Miller designed the structures, while African American architect Archie A. Alexander oversaw construction of the flight school facilities. The landing strip was completed by fall 1941, but bad weather and drainage problems often forced the first cadets to use another field. To speed completion, student laborers and skilled workers from Tuskegee Institute helped. During the war every African American AAC pilot received primary training at Moton, bused here daily from cadet barracks on the Tuskegee campus.



**From 1942 the Cadet House** housed the cadet ready room and offices for the Flight Surgeon and Air Dispatcher. It later was headquarters for the civilian flight instructors.

**Army Supply Building** This structure was the distribution center for aircraft parts and supplies. From 1942 it was occupied by the army supervisor's staff.

**Hangar No. 1**, completed in 1941, was the center of operations. Around the open hangar area were briefing rooms, administrative offices, and maintenance shops.

**Bath and Locker House** Completed in 1944, this building provided improved lavatory, bath, and locker facilities for the men and women serving at Moton Field.

The **Skyway Club** was built in 1945 as a recreational facility serving all military ranks and civilians. It provided food service and had a large hall for leisure and social gatherings.

**Hangar No. 2** was completed in 1944 in response to expanding operations. Here were the field's control tower and a parachute packing area.

From the **Control Tower** dispatchers controlled flight operations using loudspeakers and a system of light signals. It doubled as a parachute drying tower.

**Physical Plant** This building housed offices for the plant engineer and staff. Special equipment and parts for climate, water, and electrical systems were stored here.

**Warehouse** This concrete block structure, built at the same time as Hangar No. 2, housed non-aviation supplies and offices for the construction supervisor and staff.

Darker buildings are standing today.

PHOTOGRAPH BY RANDOLPH EDWARDS







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## Session XVI – Tuskegee

Below is the biography of the speaker for Session XVI, discussing his unique contribution to law and civil rights.

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### Fred D. Gray, Esquire

Fred David Gray, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, currently lives in Tuskegee and is a civil rights lawyer. Gray's legal career spans a time period of over 60 years. His first civil rights case was representation of Claudette Colvin, a 15-year old African American high school student who refused to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama, in March 1955. In December 1955, he represented Mrs. Rosa Parks who was arrested because she refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white man, igniting the Montgomery Bus Boycott, *City of Montgomery v. Rosa Parks*. He was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s first civil rights attorney. Gray filed suits that integrated all state institutions of higher learning in the State of Alabama and 104 of the then 121 elementary and secondary schools systems in the state, *Lee v. Macon*. He was counsel in preserving and protecting the rights of persons involved in the infamous Tuskegee Syphilis Study in 1972, the case of *Pollard v. United States of America*. In July of 1993, he argued on behalf of Alabama State University, the higher education case, *John F. Knight, Jr. v. State of Alabama, et. al.*, U.S. District Court for the Eleventh Circuit. The court held in that case that there are still vestiges of racial discrimination in higher education in Alabama. One of the first African Americans to serve in the Alabama Legislature since reconstruction, he served from 1970-1974. He received the Capitol Press Corps Award for Best Orator in the House of Representatives in 1972, and was a member of the National Society of State Legislators from 1970-1974. His love and commitment in promoting the works of the National Bar Association gave him recognition as its 43rd President, 1985-86. He initiated the NBA Hall of Fame (becoming an inductee in August of 1995), and was the recipient of the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit from the Washington Bar Association. Currently, he is the senior managing shareholder in the law firm of Gray, Langford, Sapp, McGowan, Gray, Gray & Nathanson P.C., with offices in Montgomery and Tuskegee, Alabama. Typical representative clients the firm has represented are: City of Tuskegee, Alabama, Utilities Board of the City of Tuskegee, Alabama, The Housing Authority of the City of Tuskegee, Tuskegee University, Alabama Education Association, United States Fidelity and Guaranty Insurance Company, Macon County Greyhound Park, Jefferson County Racing Association, Equitable Life Insurance Company, State Farm Automobile Insurance Company, United Services Automobile Association, Aetna Life and Casualty Insurance Company, General Motors Corporation, Alabama Exchange Bank, Allstate Insurance Company, Resolution Trust Corporation, and Alabama Power Company. The firm has also represented Plaintiffs in wrongful death actions, personal injury, fraud, bad faith, which have resulted in jury verdicts and settlements in multi-million dollar amounts. The firm is nationally recognized and has received extensive press coverage in such





publications as USA Today, Ebony Magazine, Jet Magazine, NBA Magazine, The Washington Times, Case Western Reserve University Magazine, New York Times, and ABC's Prime Time Live.

Among many, in June 2003, Gray was awarded the Soaring Eagles Award from the Minority Caucus of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, which symbolizes the struggle of lawyers of color as they pursue personal and professional excellence and success. In April 2004, he was the recipient of Harvard University Law School's highest award, the Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion. In August 2004, he was the recipient of the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award, and in October, the Sarah T. Hughes Civil Rights Award given by the Federal Bar Association. In 2005, he was inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor. He is the 2009 recipient of the American Association for Justice, Leonard E. Weinglass in Defense of Civil Liberties Award; and the National Bar Association, Vince Monroe Townsend, Jr. Legends Award. From the City of Montgomery in December 2013, he was awarded the "Gifts of Giants Award", in Celebration of Montgomery Bus Boycott Civil Rights Legends; Commendation by Alabama Governor Robert Bentley (2014); NBA Resolution naming the annual "Fred D. Gray Hall of Fame Award Luncheon". In 2015, a historic marker noting his contributions was erected in front of Supreme Court of Alabama building and in 2016 in Tuskegee; Pillar of Justice Award by The Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under the Law; Lifetime Achievement Award by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; Lifetime Achievement Award by Hyundai Motor America; NBA Board of Governors' Resolution to President Barack Obama to confer the Presidential Medal of Freedom Award; Honorabilis by Alabama Secretary of State John Merrill in recognition of lifetime achievements; Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Annual Legislative Conference Co-Chairs' Phoenix Award; Margaret Chase Smith by National Secretaries of State (NASS); Trailblazer Award by Case Western Reserve University at its initial Unveiling Ceremony, October 2017; Equal Justice Initiative, "Champion of Justice Award (2018). Honorary Degree Doctor of Laws by Tuskegee University (2018). His book, "Bus Ride to Justice" first released in February 1995, Revised Edition released May 2013, was previewed at the Jimmy Carter Center and broadcast on C-Span Book TV. Upon receipt of a copy, President Barack Obama wrote in a letter to Gray, "Today, we stand on the shoulders of giants who helped move us toward a more perfect Union, and I appreciate your sharing your story." The Tuskegee Syphilis Study was released in May 1998. He also wrote The Sullivan Case: A Direct Product of the Civil Rights Movement, a review for Case Western Reserve Law Review. In 1997, Gray encouraged the President of the United States to make an official apology to the participants of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study. The participants also requested a memorial in their honor. The apology was made at the White House in May of that year. Gray was the moving force in the establishment of the Tuskegee Human and Civil Rights Multicultural Center, Tuskegee. A 501(c)3 Corporation, it serves as a memorial to the Study participants, and educates the public on contributions in the field of human and civil rights by Native Americans, Americans of African descent and Americans of European descent. It also strives to educate on the role Tuskegee-Macon County played in the Civil Rights Movement. Gray is the first person of color elected as President of the Alabama State Bar Association and served as its 127th President for the year 2002-2003. As president, he was instrumental in the Board of Bar Commissioners initiating the Alabama Lawyers Hall of Fame. Inductions are now held annually.

Gray (Class of 1951) was the first President of the National Alumni Association of Alabama State University (ASU) when it was reorganized in approximately 1964, and the first person of color to serve as General Counsel for Alabama State University. He was inducted into the National Black College Alumni Hall of Fame in 2003. Under the ASU Trust for Excellence, he has established an endowment trust in the name of his late wife, Bernice H. Gray, a 1956 graduate of ASU. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. An elder of the Tuskegee Church of Christ, Gray is married to Carol Porter of Cleveland, Ohio. He is the father of four, grandfather of six and stepfather of three.

Gray is an alumnus of Alabama State University and Case Western Reserve University School of Law.



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## Session XVII – Tuskegee

Below are the biographies of the presenters for Session XVII, exploring the history of Tuskegee University within the wider context of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU), its unique contributions to the field of bioethics research, and its legacy concerning healthcare among African-Americans and rural populations.

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### Dr. Jontyle Robinson



Dr. Jontyle Robinson is a native of Atlanta. She is the first African American to graduate from the University of Georgia with a MA degree in Art History and the first African American to graduate with a Ph.D. in Art History for the University of Maryland, College Park. As curator, she has been involved in the creation of two new museums, the Spelman College Museum of Fine Art and The Legacy Museum at Tuskegee University. Dr. Robinson is the Founding Director and CEO of the Alliance of HBCU Museums and Galleries.

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### Nina Hylton

Nina Hylton is a junior political science major and bioethics minor from Mount Vernon, New York attending Tuskegee University. At TU, she is an Achievement Scholar, member of the women's softball team and President of the Bioethics Honors Program. Nina is also involved in the President McNair's Men and Women Leadership Program, Underclassmen Leadership Academy, Tiger P.A.W.S mentoring program, Title IX Student Committee, and serves as social media coordinator for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee.





## The Patient, The Project, The Partnership by Jontyle Theresa Robinson

This HeLa Cell exhibition entitled **"The Patient, The Project, The Partnership"** encapsulates "herstories" and "histories" highlighting the interrelatedness of the "Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" and the work of the Morehouse School of Medicine/Tuskegee University/University of Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Center Partnership (The Partnership) and **THE LEGACY MUSEUM** at Tuskegee University.



**The Patient:** The exhibit reveals information about the Virginia-born Henrietta Lacks (née Loretta Pleasant), a black woman with a sixth or seventh grade education, who was a housewife and mother of five. She was not particularly skilled in reading or writing, nor was science a subject she had studied in school. She and her family harvested tobacco in Virginia. When her family moved from Virginia to Maryland, medical issues brought her to Johns Hopkins University Hospital as a cancer patient. Due to the immoral racism of 1951, she fell through the cracks of the medical establishment's ethical barometer. Cancer cells from her body ultimately became available to the global research community as the infamous HeLa cells. Her "private body" became a "public text."

Debates, discrepancies and disputes abound from writers weighing in on Lacks' diagnosis and what is detailed, supposedly, in her medical charts from the university hospital which indicate that she had syphilis, gonorrhea, and multiple copies of HPV-18, which is one of the most virulent strains of the virus — this caused her aggressive cervical cancer called "adenocarcinoma." Lacks died from this vicious case of

cervical cancer. However, before she died, a surgeon took samples of her cancerous tumor (without her permission) and put them in a petri dish. For years, scientists had been trying to keep human cells alive in culture for decades. All eventually died, except Lacks' cells. Her cells became the first immortal human cells ever grown in a laboratory. Lacks, an underserved minority with cancer, was profoundly an embodiment of health disparity. As a black female of the 1950s with a cancer-ridden body, she suffered the consequences of gender, racial, economic, historical, educational and psychological stigmatization. With no agency or empowerment, with a white medical establishment in control of her body as avowed by black feminist writer Audre Lorde "... she was never meant to survive." Her heart and brain stopped functioning at 12:15 a.m. on October 4, 1951. Her cells were another matter.

Lacks' family had neither the knowledge that her cells had entered the public domain, nor were they aware that these cells were being used all over the world for profitable medical and scientific research until 25 years later. Her husband had signed the agreement for a partial autopsy and additional cells were taken from other parts of her body and more from her cervix.

"... in the hours between dawns looking inward and outward at once before and after seeking a now that can breed futures."

Audre Lorde

**The HeLa Cell Project:** In 1952, Tuskegee University, then known as Tuskegee Institute, was selected by The National Infantile Paralysis Foundation (the Foundation) to carry out the HeLa cell culture project because of the outstanding work of two Tuskegee scientists in cell biology, Russell Brown and James Henderson.

The HeLa cell strain was selected as an alternative source to primate host cells and the Foundation de-

cided to establish a central source of supply of HeLa cultures to meet the anticipated need. According to Brown and Henderson, the National Foundation wanted the HeLa cell project to conform to protocols they had developed, and thought that such conformity could be achieved best by a university having personnel and an organization with experience in research and development projects. H. M. Weaver, director of research for the Foundation was acquainted with Tuskegee and especially with the Carver Research Foundation at Tuskegee. For many years, Basil O' Connor, founder and chief administrator of the National Foundation, was chairman of the Board of Trustees of Tuskegee University. His frequent visits to Tuskegee acquainted him with the excellent faculty and facilities at the institution. The selection of Tuskegee to do the HeLa Project may have been influenced by O'Connor's confidence in the quality of effort and cooperation available at Tuskegee.

In October 1952, H. M. Weaver discussed the need for a central HeLa production laboratory with Russell Brown, director of the Carver Research Foundation. Subsequently, it was agreed that the project would be awarded to Tuskegee and supported by a grant from the National Foundation. Brown was to act as principal investigator (PI) with James Henderson, as co-PI. Weaver arranged for Brown to spend three months and Henderson six weeks studying cell and tissue culture methods at the University of Minnesota under the supervision of Jerome T. Syvertson and William F. Scherer.

Another version explaining the Tuskegee selection suggests that Charles Bynum, who worked at the Foundation as director of "Negro Activities," was the reason. Science teacher and civil rights activist Bynum, the first black foundation executive in the United States, desired Tuskegee because it would provide money for funding Carver Fellows, jobs and training for young black female and male scientists, and funding for other research at the Carver Research Foundation.





## The Patient: Henrietta Lacks (née Loretta Pleasant)

Photograph of Henrietta Lacks  
Courtesy of the Lacks Family  
and Crown Publishing,  
a division of Random House

The name “Henrietta Lacks” may be foreign to most laypersons, but for scientists and laboratories around the world, Lacks and her “HeLa” cells are central to many foundational scientific studies. Equally significant is her impact on modern-day privacy and consent laws that protect patients’ medical care and participation in scientific research.

To bring greater awareness to Lacks’ story, Tuskegee University adopted *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* by Rebecca Skloot as the campus’ common book for the Spring 2018 semester. The annual common book initiative creates a shared reading experience for students, employees, alumni and the surrounding community. It also seeks to elevate the profile of topics relating to the human condition while helping to establish lifelong habits of intellectual curiosity and engagement.

The book may be purchased in the Tuskegee University Bookstore in addition to other physical and online book retailers.

To enhance the shared common book reading experience, the family of Henrietta Lacks visited campus on Thursday, February 15, 2018 to share about her legacy on medical care and medical bioethics. A forum featuring the Lacks family occurred in the General “Chappie” James Arena. The forum was free and open to the public. This is the second time the Lacks family visited Tuskegee University. They visited in 2012 for the First Bioethics Conference on Minority Health and Health Disparities Research.

After the forum, the Lacks family visited the Legacy Museum and viewed the exhibition about their mother and grandmother.



This version is consistent with a reliable eyewitness this writer spoke to in preparing for the exhibit. An individual who was very knowledgeable about the flourishing HeLa cell project and its unfolding, Dr. Eugene Adams, Professor Emeritus, School of Veterinary Medicine, confirms the altruism of Brown and Henderson. What trumps both these versions is that Tuskegee University may have had a connection with Jonas Salk through his wife, Donna Lindsay Salk. That connection may further explain Tuskegee's selection.

This exhibit conveys the importance of the groundbreaking, historic role of Tuskegee University in the production and distribution of HeLa cells. It addresses Tuskegee's role in the HeLa cell narrative. It should be noted that Tuskegee had nothing to do with obtaining, by biopsy, the tissue from Henrietta Lacks. The HeLa cell line was isolated at Johns Hopkins University Hospital on Feb. 8, 1951. George Gey and his wife Margaret who had worked for three decades attempting to grow malignant cells outside the body. George Gey was head of tissue culture research at Johns Hopkins University and he took any cells he could get his hands on. According to Rebecca Skloot in "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks," Dr. Richard Wesley Telinde, a nationally recognized cervical cancer specialist, often used patients from Johns Hopkins University Hospital's public wards for research, usually without their knowledge. Dr. Lawrence Wharton, Jr., the surgeon on duty for Lacks, shaved two dime-sized pieces of tissue, one from her tumor and one from her healthy cervical tissue nearby. This tissue biopsy obtained surreptitiously and without permission was given to George Gey. Notes from Russell Brown and James H. Henderson exhumed from the University Archives at Tuskegee indicate that William F. Scherer, from the University of Minnesota, provided Tuskegee with the original seed culture of the HeLa cell line, which he obtained from George Gey at Johns Hopkins University Hospital. In April 1953, Scherer brought the original seed culture of HeLa cells by plane to the Tuskegee (Institute) University George Washington Carver Research Foundation.

Brown and Henderson discovered that HeLa cells were temperature sensitive. The extreme temperatures of summer and winter were hazardous to the shipment of



the cell cultures and the shipping agencies were alerted to this issue. From April to September, one or two cans of Equitherm (sodium sulfate decahydrate) were placed in each package as an aid in keeping the temperature of the cultures below 36° C. The shipping container was a heavy-duty cardboard box lined with fiberglass-aluminum sheet insulation, and with cardboard separators to avoid breakage and to keep the cultures upright.

When the package was closed, it was made airtight with heavy-duty gummed tape and securely wrapped. Packages were taken directly to Columbus, GA or to Montgomery, AL, airports in time for prearranged regular air express flights with the most favorable long distance connections. The airlines were extremely cooperative in adjusting their shipping standards to accommodate the varying packaging sizes.

Half a century has elapsed since 1951 when Henrietta Lacks' "brain and heart stop functioning" and when the partnership was founded in 2001. And many scientific advances could be credited to the use of HeLa Cells. In 1954, Microbiological Associates, Inc. began mass-producing Lacks' cells in a former Fritos factory in Bethesda, MD. Since then, more than 50 metric tons of her cells have been produced and distributed globally.

**The Partnership:** The Morehouse School of Medicine/Tuskegee University/University of Alabama Comprehensive Cancer Center Partnership uses eight (8) components for implementing its work. These interactive working components include: (1) Scientific Research, (2) Research Training and Career Development, (3) Cancer Education, (4) Community Outreach, (5) Recruitment, (6) Planning and Evaluation, (7) Biostatistics, and (8) Bioethics. The partnership's necessity and importance in addressing ethical issues such as the ones raised by Johns Hopkins University Hospital's treatment of Lacks and her family by hospital staff and doctors cannot be overstated. The HeLa Cell exhibit is a bioethical "trigger tool" mounted as a part of an immersion experience designed to engage emotions, stimulate observation and reflections of all viewers including potential, research subjects, and particularly human research investigators, research administrators, and IRB members. Viewers should see **THELEGACYMUSEUM** exhibit, **"The Patient, The Project, The Partnership"** as an experiential opportunity to develop empathy with and respect for not only those who participate in research, but those whose place in society may be very different from their own. A full engagement with the total immersion experience should help researchers: to anticipate the kind of ethical issues their research might raise, to examine these issues, and to critically reflect on how they plan to resolve them.



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# BURT JONES RURAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

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## Student Expectations

Each and every interaction with a Blackburn Student, Fellow, Advisory Board member, or friend of the institute provides you with a unique opportunity to build your personal brand through positive networking experiences. Be mindful that poor behavior reflects poorly not only on yourself, but your family, your region, your state, the Blackburn Institute, and The University of Alabama.

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### Broadening Horizons:

A primary mission of the Blackburn Institute is developing ethical, broad-thinking leaders. In order to become a leader of this caliber, individuals must be willing to entertain new ideas and expose themselves to new people and experiences.

- Have the courage to not only embrace, but to seek out, new experiences.
  - Show empathy and understanding for others in all that you do.
  - Tolerate and learn from differing viewpoints.
  - Develop a positive attitude towards interacting with people unfamiliar to you.
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### Professionalism:

As a leadership development organization, the Blackburn Institute places a heavy emphasis on professionalism. Ethical leaders should exemplify professional ideals and enact them in his or her daily life, but especially during Blackburn-sponsored events.

- Engage in meaningful dialogue aimed at increasing mutual understanding; never adversarial debate aimed at conquest or victory.
  - Respect every individual regardless of class, rank, title, or responsibilities.
  - Ask insightful questions in search of knowledge and understanding; never use questioning as a mechanism to trap or discredit someone.
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## General Decorum:

Ensure that you always use proper manners at Blackburn-sponsored events and please keep in mind the useful tips we learned from the Blackburn Essential Skills Workshops.

- Utilize appropriate dining etiquette.
  - Maximize networking opportunities.
  - Engage in civil discourse and dialogue.
  - Ask thoughtful and respectful questions.
  - Show respect and courtesy to members of the Blackburn Institute, speakers, invited guests, and all others.
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## Conduct:

As a member of the Blackburn Institute, you represent the Institute and The University of Alabama at all Blackburn events.

- Remember, you will be held accountable for all policies contained in the Code of Student Conduct when off campus representing The University and the Blackburn Institute.
- From The University of Alabama Alcohol and Other Drug Policy:  
“The University of Alabama is an institution of higher education which seeks to create a community that promotes respect, responsibility for actions, civility, upholds state and federal laws, and fosters an environment conducive to learning for members of the academic community. The misuse of AOD can hinder the University’s mission and its role in preparing students for responsible citizenship through appropriately focused educational, environmental and enforcement activities related to student health, safety, and wellbeing.”
- Consuming and/or being under the influence of alcohol or other drugs are strictly prohibited for all students in all Blackburn student programs. A limited exception for alcohol is made for students age 21 and over during institute-designated events with Fellows and Advisory Board members. Expectations of appropriate conduct, decorum, and professionalism remain in place at all times.

I, \_\_\_\_\_ (print), as a student member of the Blackburn Institute have read, fully understand, and agree to the Student Expectations.

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Signature

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Date



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# BURT JONES RURAL COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**<sup>\*</sup> | Division of  
Student Life  
Blackburn Institute

## Dress Classifications / Suggested Packing List

The Blackburn Institute utilizes a standard dress classification system to help its community identify appropriate attire for a variety of events. Attire will be noted in all invitations for Blackburn Institute events. This system provides flexibility for personal style, while ensuring a consistent appearance and level of professionalism.

### Business Formal

- Business-style dress
- Dress with a jacket
- Stockings (optional in summer)
- Heels, low or high
- Business suit
- Matching vest (optional)
- Dress shirt
- Conservative tie
- Dress shoes and dress socks

### Business Casual

- Skirt, khakis, or pants
- Open-collar shirt, knit shirt, or sweater (no spaghetti straps or décolleté)
- Dress
- Flats or heels
- Seasonal sport coat or blazer with slacks or khakis
- Dress shirt, casual button-down shirt, open-collar or polo shirt
- Optional tie
- Loafers or loafer-style shoes with socks

### Casual

- Anything in which you are comfortable!

If you want specific guidelines for this category, here are some suggestions:

- Sundress
- Long or short skirt
- Khakis or jeans (clean, no holes)
- Shorts (depending on occasion and climate)
- Plain t-shirt (no slogans), polo shirt, or turtleneck
- Casual button-down blouse or shirt and/or sweater
- Loafers, sneakers, or sandals



## Toiletry Items

- Toothbrush/Toothpaste
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Brush/Comb
- Eye care (contacts and contact solution)
- Required medication (in original bottle, if prescription)
- Personal hygiene items

## Clothing

- General Attire Guidelines (see page 71 for descriptions)
  - Wednesday - Business casual for afternoon sessions and dinner
  - Thursday - Business casual for full day
  - Friday - Business casual for full day
  - Saturday - Business casual for full day
  - Sunday - Casual for hiking
- Sleepwear
- Socks and appropriate footwear
  - Wednesday - afternoon tours include walking for a few blocks (up to one-half of a mile) in Union Spring's Bullock County Courthouse Historic District
  - Thursday - afternoon tours will include walking several blocks (up to one mile) in downtown Eufaula's Seth Lore and Irwinton Historic District
  - Saturday - walking up to one-half of a mile on Tuskegee University's campus
- Belt

## Miscellaneous

- Nametag - **required**
- Portfolio - **required**
- Cell phone / tablet and charger - **optional**
- Headphones - **optional**
- Games / books / movies for travel entertainment on bus - **optional**
- Petty cash for souvenirs and any additional personal needs (all meals are provided) - **optional**

**Not Recommended - Students are strongly discouraged from bringing the following items.**

- Laptops
- Large amounts of study materials
- Excessive cash
- Expensive jewelry



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BURT JONES  
RURAL COMMUNITY  
EXPERIENCE

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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**<sup>\*</sup> | Division of  
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## Fall 2019 Post-Trip Self-Assessment

1. Name:

2. How would you rate your general level of knowledge of the Eastern Black belt region of Alabama on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the least knowledgeable and 10 being the most knowledgeable?

How would you rate your knowledge of the region with regards to the following specific topics:

Arts/Culture

Geography/Environment

Industry

Local Government/Politics

Education

History/Social Issues

3. How would you rate your personal level of empathy and appreciation for other people's perspectives on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being the least empathetic and 10 being the most empathetic?

4. How would you rate your ability to engage in meaningful discussions among the following groups on a scale of 1-10, with 1 being unable to have meaningful discussions and 10 being fully able to have meaningful discussions?

Your Class

Blackburn Advisory Board

Your Class Small Group

Blackburn Staff

All Blackburn Students

Those Outside of Blackburn

Blackburn Fellows

5. What do you think are the biggest issues impacting this region of the state?

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6. What do you think are the biggest resources/advantages impacting this region of the state?

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7. What did you learn from this travel experience?

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8. What did you enjoy most about this travel experience?

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9. What did you enjoy least about this travel experience?

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10. What area of the state would you like to see next year's fall travel experience explore?

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11. Do you have any concerns about the content or format of the travel experience?

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